

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
JANUARY 7, 2026 to APRIL 29, 2026

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
JULY 29, 2026

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2026

CHAPTER 606
H.P. 1470 - L.D. 2189

**An Act to Require Prior
Notification of Closures of
Labor and Delivery Units and
Changes in Maternity or
Newborn Care Services by
Hospitals as Recommended by
the Commission to Evaluate
the Scope of Regulatory
Review and Oversight over
Health Care Transactions That
Impact the Delivery of Health
Care Services in the State**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the notification required by this legislation is needed as soon as possible to give affected residents adequate time to prepare for closures of labor and delivery units and make other plans; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1822-B is enacted to read:

§1822-B. Notice of termination of or change in maternity or newborn care services

1. Termination of maternity or newborn care services. A hospital shall file with the department at least 120 days prior to the effective date of the termination of maternity or newborn care services a notice setting forth the following information:

A. The effective date of the proposed termination and the reason for the termination;

B. The name, title, e-mail address and phone number for a contact person at the hospital;

C. The hospital's plan for emergency care, including the development and review of policy and procedure for maternity emergencies and training for emergency department and family practice staff on emergency obstetric care;

D. A list and descriptions of notifications sent to surrounding hospitals within 50 miles and Level II, Level III and Level IV newborn nursery units, to

any local emergency management, fire and law enforcement services and to any registered patients that are affected by the termination; and

E. A description of how the hospital provided public notification of the termination.

2. Change in level of care of maternity or newborn care services. A hospital shall file with the department at least 120 days prior to the effective date of a change in the level of care of maternity or newborn care services a notice setting forth the following information:

A. The effective date of the proposed change in the level of care and the reason for the change;

B. The name, title, e-mail address and phone number for a contact person at the hospital;

C. A list and descriptions of notifications sent to surrounding hospitals within 50 miles and Level II, Level III and Level IV newborn nursery units, to any local emergency management, fire and law enforcement services and to any registered patients that are affected by the change; and

D. A description of how the hospital provided public notification of the change.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 3, 2026.

CHAPTER 607

S.P. 894 - L.D. 2193

**An Act to Extend the
Requirement That the Maine
Commission on Public Defense
Services Compensate Certain
Private Attorneys Appointed to
Provide Indigent Legal
Services**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, Public Law 2025, chapter 40 requires the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services to compensate an attorney appointed by a District Court, a Superior Court or the Supreme Judicial Court to represent a person who is eligible to receive indigent legal services if no public defender, assigned counsel, contract counsel or employed counsel is available to represent the person and if the appointed attorney is willing and qualified to undertake the representation; and