

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(New draft of H. P. 250, L. D. 301)

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 807**

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H. P. 684

House of Representatives, February 27, 1975

Reported by Mr. Curran from Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Printed under Joint Rules No. 18.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

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**STATE OF MAINE**

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-FIVE

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**AN ACT to Require Reports of Certain Communicable and Notifiable Diseases to be Made to the Director of Health to the Department of Health and Welfare.**

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA § 904 is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

§ 904. Notifiable or reportable diseases

Communicable and other illnesses causing death, disability or discomfort as determined by the department are notifiable diseases and shall be reported to the department in the manner specified in section 905.

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA § 905 is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

§ 905. Notice by physician to Director of Health

Whenever any physician knows or has reason to believe that any person whom he examines has or is infected with any of the notifiable diseases as defined by the Director of Health, such physician shall notify the Director of Health in the manner and time prescribed by the Director of Health, except venereal diseases shall be reported in a manner set forth in section 1094. Any violation of this section occurring shall be referred to the district attorney in the district in which the violation has occurred and said district attorney shall thereupon examine into the case and take such action in the matter as the circumstances of the case require. The Director of Health where he seems it advisable shall notify the local health officer of disease in his town and shall offer consultation to the local health officer on how to contain,

**treat and manage the outbreak. Reports of disease conditions by town shall be available to local health officers upon request.**

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

With the vastly increased mobility of the resident population and a large seasonal influx of tourists from Canada and southern states, communicable disease outbreaks can rarely be contained and managed in one town as envisioned in the current statutory provisions concerning communicable diseases which were written at the turn of the century. Modern public health management of disease in the population requires a positive reporting system that can track certain diseases from area to area and plan for necessary manpower and medical supplies. The current communicable disease reporting system is slow, cumbersome and of limited use. Approximately 500 physicians report to about 500 local health officers who in turn report to the Department of Health and Welfare. The system proposed would involve local health officers in a positive manner by offering consultation and services with the problem defined or anticipated.

Notifiable diseases in the context of this bill refers to communicable diseases as defined in Title 22, infectious diseases as their identity and mode of transmission is established and diseases determined by the Director of Health where it is in the public interest to have them reported.