

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 882

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H. P. 699

House of Representatives, March 9, 1977

On motion of Mr. Goodwin of South Berwick, referred to Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent up for concurrence and 1,800 ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Trafton of Auburn.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

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**AN ACT to Create a Division of Public Health Nursing within the Bureau of Health, Department of Human Services.**

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

22 MRSA c. 408 is enacted to read:

**CHAPTER 408**

**PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING**

§ 1961. Division of Public Health Nursing

There is established within the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health, a Division of Public Health Nursing.

§ 1962. Director

The Commissioner of Human Services shall appoint a Director of Public Health Nursing, subject to the Personnel Law, who shall be licensed as a registered nurse in the State and shall have education and experience in community health nursing.

§ 1963. Responsibilities of the Division of Public Health Nursing

The Division of Public Health Nursing shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Establish standards. To establish standards in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations, Bureau of Health policies and procedures and current medical and nursing practice for:

A. Community nursing services in communicable diseases;

**B. Programs for promoting the health of mothers and children; and**

**C. School health screening to be done in cooperation with the Department of Educational and Cultural Services.**

**2. Information.** To inform community nursing agencies of the standards in subsection 1 and to enforce those standards;

**3. Provide nursing services.** To provide, at the discretion of the director, nursing services in communities which lack such services or in which such services are inadequate according to established standards; and

**4. Provide technical assistance.** To provide technical assistance to school health nurses, prenatal clinics, community immunization clinics and child health conferences and groups seeking to establish such clinics and conferences.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to clarify the responsibilities of the Division of Public Health Nursing within the Department of Human Services and to authorize specifically that the division shall have responsibility for community nursing standards, including nursing care standards for maternal and child health care, assistance to school nurses, community immunization clinics and child health conferences.