

# 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 scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (Filing No. H-339)  
109TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 545, L.D. 676, Bill, "AN ACT to Clarify Certain Provisions Relating to the Statistical Reporting of Abortions."

Amend the Bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1596, sub-§1, ¶B, as enacted by PL 1977, §186,  
c. 696, is amended to read:

B. "Miscarriage" means an interruption of a pregnancy other than as provided in paragraph A of a fetus of less than 20 weeks gestation.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §1596, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 696, §186, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

2. Reports. A report of each abortion performed and a report of each miscarriage which occurs when a physician is in attendance shall be made to the Department of Human Services on forms prescribed by the department. These report forms shall not identify the patient by name or otherwise and shall contain only the information requested on the United States Standard Report of Induced Termination of Pregnancy, published by the National Center for Health Statistics, dated January 1978.

The form containing that information and data shall be prepared by the attending physician, signed by him and transmitted to the department not later than 10 days following the end of the month in which the abortion is performed or the miscarriage occurs.

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §1596, next to / last ¶,  
696, §186, is amended to read:

The identity of any patient or physician reporting pursuant to this section is confidential and the department shall take ~~such~~ the steps ~~as~~ which are necessary to insure the confidentiality of the identity of patients or physicians reporting pursuant to this section.

Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §2841, first ¶ is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

Except as authorized by the department or as required under section 1596, a certificate of each death of a fetus of 20 or more weeks of gestation which occurs in this State shall be filed with the clerk of the municipality where the delivery occurred within 3 days after delivery and prior to removal of the fetus from the State.'

#### Statement of Fact

This amendment clarifies the relationship between the statutes requiring reports of abortions and miscarriages and reports of fetal death by establishing a distinguishing point at 20 weeks of gestation. The amendment also removes redundant or objectionable reporting requirements and leaves only the requirement that standardized information is to be reported.

Reported by the Committee on Judiciary  
Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the  
Clerk of the House  
5/7/79 (Filing No. H-339)