

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 676

H. P. 545

House of Representatives, February 21, 1979

Referred to the Committee on Judiciary. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Berube of Lewiston.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

**AN ACT to Clarify Certain Provisions Relating to the Statistical Reporting of Abortions.**

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

**Sec. 1. 22 MRSA § 1596, sub-§ 1, ¶ B**, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 696, § 186, is repealed.

**Sec. 2. 22 MRSA § 1596, sub-§ 2**, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 696, § 186, is amended to read:

**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. Such report forms shall not identify the patient by name ~~or otherwise~~ and shall contain only the following information:

- A. Weight in grams of the fetus aborted, to the extent practical;
- B. Measurement in centimeters of the fetus aborted, crown to rump, sitting height, to the extent practical;
- C. When an abortion is performed, the medical procedure used to abort;
- D. Given gestational age of fetus; ~~and~~

E. Any resulting medical complications; and

**F. Any items of 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 such 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~~.

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

A physician who reports data on an abortion pursuant to this section shall be immune from any criminal liability for that abortion under Title 17, section 51.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to amend Title 22, section 1596, which requires that a report of each abortion performed be made to the Department of Human services. The statute does not require identification of patients by name but provides certain statistics about the abortion.

This bill is designed to expand the statistical indicators to include those reported on the U.S. Standard Report of Induced Termination of Pregnancy, dated January 1978, for purposes of uniformity and greater understanding of abortion and its medical implications.

This bill also omits the requirement that miscarriages be reported under Title 22, section 1596, as they are already reported under Title 22, section 2841.