

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1090

H. P. 880

House of Representative, March 7, 1979

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. M. Nelson of Portland.

Cosponsors: Ms. Lund of Augusta, Mr. Baker of Portland and Mrs. Masterton of Cape Elizabeth.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

**AN ACT to Provide for an Environmental Doctor in the Department of
Environmental Protection.**

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

38 MRSA § 350 is enacted to read:

§ 350. Environmental doctor

The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall employ, within the department, a physician with special knowledge in the area of environmental medicine. The duties of the environmental physician shall be:

- 1. Consultant.** To act as consultant on health matters to the department, the Department of Human Services, Division of Health Engineering and other departments which deal with public health problems;
- 2. Data bank.** To establish a data bank of information obtained from local and state agencies regarding industrial and environmental activity throughout the various states;

3. Correlate profiles. To correlate statistically established profiles and identify geographic areas where unusual clustering or incidence of disease is shown;

4. Organizing data. To organize the assorted data on all public drinking water supplies;

5. Disaster plans. To establish disaster plans for hospital, police and rescue workers and other individuals involved in disaster relief and rescue work to provide plans of action in the event of a catastrophe and to identify public health episodes dealing with drinking water, air pollution and land disposal which may affect public health; and

6. Information from other states. To exchange information with medical experts in other states.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to provide for an environmental doctor in the Department of Environmental Protection.