

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)

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 631

H. P. 555

House of Representatives, February 4, 1981

Referred to the Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Prescott of Hampden.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT Relating to Radiological Exposure.

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

22 MRSA c. 271 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 271

RADIOLOGICAL EXPOSURE

§ 1681. Records of radiation exposure

Any person prescribing any diagnostic or therapeutic use of radiation shall maintain records of the radiation exposure for each patient. These records shall include, but are not limited to, the date of exposure, the anatomical site of exposure and a measurement of the exposure in roentgens or milliroentgens.

§ 1682. Information to be available to patient

The information in each patient's exposure record shall be available to the patient, upon request, and during the normal business hours of the person prescribing the radiation.

§ 1683. Violation

Failure to keep records as required under this chapter is a civil violation for which a forfeiture not to exceed \$250 may be adjudged.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to require physicians or dentists or others who prescribe the use of radiation to maintain records of the radiation exposure to patients and for the information in these records to be available to the patients.

It is widely recognized by the medical community, as well as by scientists concerned about radiation protection, that exposure due to medical uses of ionizing radiation should be limited to what is absolutely necessary because of the risk of cancer.

Reductions in radiation exposure may be realized from avoiding the prescription of a duplicative x-ray examination. Duplicative x-rays can be reduced if patients are encouraged to monitor their own exposures. Monitoring can only be done if exposure records are well maintained and the information in them is available to the patients.