

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
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3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
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5 Legislative Document

No. 906

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7 H.P. 715

House of Representatives, February 28, 1983

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

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Soule of Westport.

Cosponsor: Representative Hayden of Durham.

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12 STATE OF MAINE  
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14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE  
16

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17 AN ACT to Amend the Reporting Requirements  
18 in Cases of Death Due to Abuse or Neglect.  
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20 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as  
21 follows:

22 Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3478, as enacted by PL 1981, c.  
23 705, Pt. E, §2, is amended to read:

24 §3478. Mandatory reporting to medical examiner for  
25 post-mortem investigation

26 A person required to report cases of known or  
27 suspected abuse or neglect, who knows or has reason-  
28 able cause to suspect that an adult has died as a  
29 result of abuse or neglect, shall report that fact to  
30 the appropriate medical examiner authority as pro-  
31 vided in section 3026. The medical examiner shall  
32 accept the report for investigation and shall report  
33 his findings to the police, the appropriate district

1 attorney, the department and, if the institution  
2 making the report is a hospital, the hospital.

3 Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4013, as enacted by PL 1979, c.  
4 733, §18, is amended to read:

5 §4013. Mandatory reporting to medical examiner for  
6 post-mortem investigation

7 A person required to report cases of known or  
8 suspected abuse or neglect, who knows or has reason-  
9 able cause to suspect that a child has died as a  
10 result of abuse or neglect, shall report that fact to  
11 the appropriate medical examiner authority as pro-  
12 vided in section 3026. The medical examiner shall ac-  
13 cept the report for investigation and shall report  
14 his findings to the police, the appropriate district  
15 attorney, the department and, if the institution  
16 making the report is a hospital, the hospital.

17 STATEMENT OF FACT

18 The purpose of this bill is to bring the report-  
19 ing requirements specified in sections 3478 and 4013  
20 into conformity with those in section 3026. Revised  
21 Statutes, Title 22, section 3026 presently provides a  
22 procedure for the reporting of suspected medical  
23 examiner cases. The present language of sections  
24 3478 and 4013, which deal with reporting deaths as a  
25 result of neglect or abuse of adults and children  
26 respectively, provides a different procedure than  
27 that provided in section 3026.

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