

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)

1 SECOND REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1869

6
7 H.P. 1424

House of Representatives, January 10, 1984

8 Approved for introduction by the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint
9 Rule 26.

10 Reference to the Committee on Health and Institutional Services is
suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

11 Presented by Representative Nelson of Portland.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FOUR
16

17 AN ACT Regarding the Improvement of
18 Immunization Levels Against Specific
19 Preventable Diseases in School Children.
20

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

23 20-A MRSA §6351, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1981,
24 c. 693, §§5 and 8, is repealed and the following en-
25 acted in its place:

26 2. Admission to school. A student may not be
27 admitted to school without a certificate or other ac-
28 ceptable evidence of immunization or immunity against
29 disease unless:

30 A. The person in parental relationship to a stu-
31 dent:

32 (1) Agrees in writing to have the student
33 immunized within 90 days;

1 (2) Consents in writing to the student being immunized by a health officer, physician, nurse or other authorized person in public or private employ; or

5 (3) States in writing that the student should not be immunized for any of the following reasons:

8 (a) A physician states in writing that immunization may threaten the student's health;

11 (b) A physician states in writing that the student has already had the disease against which immunization is required;

14 (c) The parent or guardian holds a sincere religious belief which is contrary to this immunization requirement; or

18 (d) The parent or guardian is opposed to immunization for moral, philosophical or other personal reasons.

22 Immunization against mumps shall be required for all students in kindergarten to grade 6. Beginning in September 1985, students in grade 7 shall be immunized against mumps and in each successive September the grade shall increase until in 1990 students in kindergarten to grade 12 shall be immunized against mumps.

29 STATEMENT OF FACT

30 Rubella presents a serious threat to the unborn child, including deafness, cataracts and mental retardation, when a susceptible pregnant female is exposed to rubella. Recent communications from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Disease Control, recommend that all students born after 1956 present documented records indicating that live rubella vaccine was administered on or after the first birthday. This recommendation

1 is based on the fact that a significant proportion of
2 the adolescent and young adult population are inade-
3 quately immunized. The Department of Human Services
4 estimates that in excess of 10% of adolescent females
5 are inadequately immunized against rubella.

6 Laboratory tests with the capability of determin-
7 ing immunity are available. When immunity is indi-
8 cated, these tests are acceptable evidence of protec-
9 tion against specified diseases.

10 Mumps is capable of inducing a number of serious
11 adverse effects to those who become infected, includ-
12 ing deafness and, in the male, sterility. Financial
13 considerations formerly precluded the requirement
14 that mumps vaccine be administered to students beyond
15 kindergarten. Since 1981, approximately 97% of all
16 kindergarten enterers have been protected against
17 mumps upon school entry. This cohort will be in
18 grades one to 3 by the fall of 1984. It is widely
19 believed that students already in grades 4 to 6 are
20 well immunized against mumps so that only a minimal
21 effort will be necessary to protect those requiring
22 vaccine in those grades.

23

5270121983