

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 476

6  
7 H.P. 356

House of Representatives, February 8, 1985

8 On Motion of Representative Brodeur of Auburn, referred to the  
9 Committee on Human Resources. Sent up for concurrence and ordered  
10 printed. Ordered sent forthwith.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Manning of Portland.

11 Cosponsored by Representative Nelson of Portland, Senator Gill of  
Cumberland and Senator Berube of Androscoggin.

12 STATE OF MAINE  
13

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

17 AN ACT Establishing a System for the  
18 Reporting of Selected Occupational  
19 Diseases.  
20

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

23 Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1030-A is enacted to read:

24 §1030-A. Occupational disease reporting system

25 The Department of Human Services shall establish,  
26 maintain and operate a statewide occupational disease  
27 reporting system. Reporting will include, but not  
28 limited to, the following diseases: Silicosis;  
29 asbestosis; and mesothelioma.

30 Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §1402, as amended by PL 1975, c.  
31 293, §4, is further amended to read:

32 §1402. Duty of physicians and hospitals

1 All hospitals shall report to the Department of  
2 Human Services all persons diagnosed as having a ma-  
3 ~~alignant tumor~~ an occupational disease no later than  
4 30 days from the date of diagnosis or from discharge  
5 from a hospital.

6 A physician, upon notification by the Department  
7 of Human Services, shall report to the department any  
8 further information requested by the department con-  
9 cerning any person now or formerly under his care,  
10 diagnosed as having or having had a ~~malignant tumor~~  
11 an occupational disease.

12 No physician or hospital complying with the re-  
13 porting requirements of this section shall be liable  
14 for any civil damages as a result of such acts.

15 Sec. 3. Appropriation. The following funds are  
16 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the  
17 purposes of this Act.

18 1985-86

19 HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

20 Personal Services	\$ 75,000
21 All Other	<u>25,000</u>
22 Total	\$100,000

23 STATEMENT OF FACT

24 This bill begins to gather information on the in-  
25 cidence of occupational diseases. A recent report  
26 from the United States Congress indicates that per-  
27 haps more than 100,000 United States workers die an-  
28 nually from occupational diseases and that there is  
29 no rational or adequate system for tracking occupa-  
30 tional diseases. The report further indicates that  
31 the reporting of occupational diseases is at about  
32 where the reporting of communicable diseases was 70  
33 years ago. An adequate reporting system will aid in  
34 the detecting, tracking and prevention of occupation-  
35 al diseases.

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