

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(New Draft of H.P. 257, L.D. 311)  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1562

H.P. 1073

House of Representatives, May 23, 1985

Reported by the Minority from the Committee on Education and printed under Joint Rule 2. Original bill sponsored by Representative Nelson of Portland. Cosponsored by Representative Carroll of Gray, Representative O'Gara of Westbrook and Representative Ruhlin of Brewer.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Mandate a Course in Cardiopulmonary  
Resuscitation in High Schools.

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4723, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 859, Pt. C, §§5 and 7, is amended to read:

§4723. Health and physical education

The secondary course of study shall include instruction in health, safety and physical education, as prescribed by the commissioner, and physiology and hygiene, with special reference to the effects of alcoholic drinks, stimulants and narcotics upon the human system. Secondary schools shall offer instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation as part of a health curriculum. Where possible the schools should make use of local voluntary rescue services or hospitals to provide teaching aids and instructors.

1       Sec. 2. Effective date. This Act shall take ef-  
2       fect August 1, 1988.

3                               FISCAL NOTE

4       This new draft would not begin to affect state  
5       funds until fiscal year 1989. At that time, the ef-  
6       fect would be insignificant. The local costs would  
7       depend on how successful a school was in cooperating  
8       with local hospitals and rescue services.

9                               STATEMENT OF FACT

10       Cardiovascular disease remains the leading cause  
11       of death in the United States, outnumbering the next  
12       2 causes combined. Analysis of the outcome of cardi-  
13       ac arrests which have been witnessed by another per-  
14       son has shown that survival depends on 2 factors:  
15       The arrival of cardipulmonary resuscitation, CPR; and  
16       the arrival of advanced life support. CPR should be  
17       initiated within 4 minutes and advanced life support  
18       within 8 minutes.

19       The Office of Emergency Medical Services and lo-  
20       cal rescue units have worked together to make ad-  
21       vanced life support services available in all parts  
22       of the State. These advanced life support services  
23       are only effective if bystanders or neighbors can  
24       initiate CPR within 4 minutes.

25       The new draft, by requiring secondary schools to  
26       offer their students a course in CPR, would greatly  
27       increase the pool of bystanders capable of doing CPR,  
28       increase the probability that CPR would be initiated  
29       within 4 minutes and hence maximize the effectiveness  
30       of the state and local investment in advanced life  
31       support services.

32       By a combination of training existing school per-  
33       sonnel as CPR instructors, a weekend course and using  
34       local volunteers from fire departments, hospitals and  
35       rescue services, the costs of the program could be  
36       kept to a reasonable level.

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