

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1479

H.P. 1088 House of Representatives, May 8, 1987
Submitted by the Department of Human Services pursuant to
Joint Rule 24.

Reference to the Committee on Human Resources suggested
and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative STROUT of Windham.

Cosponsored by Representatives FARNUM of South Berwick,
ERWIN of Rumford and Senator CAHILL of Sagadahoc.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Authorize Evaluation of Vital
Statistics.

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

6 Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §2701, sub-§2 is amended to
7 read:

8 2. Supervision. The state registrar shall have
9 charge of the Office of Vital Statistics and be cus-
10 todian of its files and records. He shall preserve
11 all certificates, records and other reports returned
12 to him under this Title. He shall have general super-
13 vision of this Title and the regulations of the de-
14 partment relating to the registration of vital sta-
15 tistics; ~~and shall direct the activities of municipal~~
16 ~~clerks in the registration of vital statistics.~~ He

1 shall direct, supervise and control the activities of
2 all persons when they are engaged in activities per-
3 taining to the operation of the system of vital sta-
4 tistics. He shall conduct training programs to pro-
5 mote uniformity of policy and procedures throughout
6 the State in matters pertaining to the system of vi-
7 tal statistics. He shall monitor the accuracy, com-
8 pleteness and validity of all information returned to
9 him under this Title.

10 Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §2702-A is enacted to read:

11 §2702-A. Duties to furnish information

12 Any person having knowledge of the facts shall
13 furnish such information as he may possess regarding
14 any birth, death, spontaneous fetal death, abortion,
15 marriage, divorce or annulment, upon demand of the
16 state registrar.

17 STATEMENT OF FACT

18 Vital statistics data serve many critical func-
19 tions for individuals, health and medical research
20 and the administration of important and costly health
21 and social services programs. The accuracy of the
22 information contained on vital records is key to all
23 of these purposes. Penalties are prescribed by law
24 for the provision of false information. Past efforts
25 to evaluate these records have been seriously flawed
26 by refusals to participate.

27 This bill clarifies the responsibility of the
28 state registrar to operate the vital statistics sys-
29 tem in this State, as set forth in the Maine Revised
30 Statutes, Title 22, sections 2701 and 2709, to in-
31 clude maintenance of its quality and validity. This
32 bill authorizes the Office of Vital Statistics to re-
33 quire the individuals, institutions or facilities who
34 are charged with reporting or filing vital statistics
35 records to participate in evaluation studies for the
36 purpose of assessing their accuracy and validity and
37 identifying aspects needing improvement.

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