

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(After Deadline)
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2302

S.P. 890 In Senate, February 19, 1988
Approved for Introduction by a Majority of the Legislative
Council pursuant to Joint Rule 27.
Reference to the Committee on Human Resources suggested
and ordered printed.
JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator GILL of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Senator CLARK of Cumberland, Representative
HIGGINS of Scarborough, Representative DIAMOND of Bangor.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 AN ACT to Develop a Program for Prenatal
2 Detection of Handicapping Conditions.
3

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

6 22 MRSA §1534 is enacted to read:

7 §1534. Prenatal detection of handicapping conditions

8 1. Maternal serum alpha-fetoprotein screening

1 test. The Department of Human Services shall develop
2 a program for the detection of handicapping conditions
3 by means of a maternal serum alpha-fetoprotein
4 screening test for prenatal detection of neural-tube
5 defects of the fetus.

6 2. Rulemaking. The department shall promulgate
7 rules, in accordance with the Maine Administrative
8 Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter 375, to regulate the
9 screening program under subsection 1, including, but
10 not limited to, requirements for medical laboratories
11 licensed by the department in accordance with chapter
12 411, article 3 and patient support services.

13 STATEMENT OF FACT

14 The measurement of alpha-fetoprotein in a woman's
15 blood during pregnancy is a screening method to detect
16 spina bifida and other genetically related
17 handicapping conditions. This bill establishes a
18 screening program to detect elevated levels of
19 alpha-fetoprotein to help prevent handicapping
20 conditions, and authorizes the Department of Human
21 Services to adopt rules to regulate the program and
22 provide for patient support services.

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