

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

No. 1617

S.P. 573

In Senate, December 30, 1993

**An Act to Clarify the Display of Social Security Numbers on
Insurance-related Identification Cards.**

(EMERGENCY)

Submitted by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services pursuant to Joint Rule 24.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 30, 1993. Referred to the Committee on Banking and Insurance and 1200-ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 14.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator KIEFFER of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representative: RYDELL of Brunswick.

2 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not
become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted
as emergencies; and

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6 Whereas, in 1993, a change in the law prohibited the use of
social security numbers as a means of identification under
certain circumstances; and

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10 Whereas, many administrative systems utilize the social
security numbers for the purpose of identifying individuals
eligible for health insurance coverage; and

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14 Whereas, any change to the administrative systems will
result in system conversions at a time when costs are a major
concern to most businesses and government; and

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18 Whereas, a change in the law is required promptly to clarify
the use of this important component of health insurance coverage
identification; and

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22 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
24 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
safety; now, therefore,

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

30 **Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §1272-A is enacted to read:**

32 **§1272-A. Exemptions from prohibition**

34 Social security numbers may be used as an identification for
medical insurance including health insurance, dental insurance
and prescription drug coverage.

36 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
38 preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

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42 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

44 Public Law 1993, chapter 115 prohibits a business operating
in this State from displaying a social security number on a
credit card, customer service card or debit card. The public law
46 has been interpreted by a major vendor doing business with the
state employee health insurance program as prohibiting the use of
48 social security numbers on the prescription and dental plans
provided to state employees and retirees. This bill clarifies
50 the use of social security numbers for the purpose of

2 identification for medical insurance, including health and dental
insurance and prescription drug coverage.

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8 This document has not yet been reviewed to determine the
10 need for cross-reference, stylistic and other technical
amendments to conform existing law to current drafting standards.