

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 247

H.P. 212

House of Representatives, January 23, 2001

**An Act to Expand Access to Prescription Drugs with a State Toll-free
Number.**

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative GLYNN of South Portland.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BUCK of Yarmouth, CRESSEY of Baldwin, LOVETT of
Scarborough, NUTTING of Oakland.

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

4 Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §2682 is enacted to read:

6 **§2682. Prescription drug pricing information system**

8 The department shall establish and maintain a toll-free
10 telephone line to provide information on prescription drug
12 pricing by private industry. This system must provide
14 information on prescription drug pricing, including sliding scale
16 payment plans and free prescription drugs offered by drug
18 companies; advise callers on generic and name brand options; and
20 send and provide assistance in filling out forms required by
22 private companies to take advantage of offers of discounted or
24 free drugs. The toll-free telephone line must be staffed by an
26 operator knowledgeable about prescription drugs and current
28 industry selection and pricing. The operator shall refer the
30 caller to a generic equivalent of a brand name drug if a generic
equivalent is available. Rules adopted to implement this section
are major substantive rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375,
subchapter II-A.

24 **SUMMARY**

26 This bill establishes a toll-free telephone number
28 administered by the Department of Human Services to provide
30 information on prescription drug prices and to give advice and
assistance in applying for discount or free drugs from private
drug companies.