



120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 512

H.P. 391

House of Representatives, February 6, 2001

An Act to Encourage HIV Testing of Pregnant Patients.

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

Millicent M. Mac Failand

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative MARRACHE of Waterville. Cosponsored by Senator MITCHELL of Penobscot and Representatives: HASKELL of Milford, HAWES of Standish, LAVERRIERE-BOUCHER of Biddeford, SHIELDS of Auburn.

	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
2	Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §19203-A, sub-§6 is enacted to read:
4	
	6. Pregnancy. Written informed consent need not be
6	obtained from a pregnant woman when a physician determines that
	HIV testing should be a routine component of prenatal care. The
8	physician shall give the patient the opportunity to decline
	testing and shall annotate the medical record regarding the
10	patient's decision. The counseling specified by section 19204-A
	is not required, but the physician shall counsel the patient on
12	effective antiretroviral therapy for the patient's own health and
	to reduce the risk of HIV transmission to the patient's infant.
14	
16	SUMMARY
18	This bill encourages HIV screening of pregnant women by
	allowing physicians to obtain oral consent to testing and to
20	provide less extensive counseling about the test than required under current law.