

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

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No. 1142

H.P. 835

House of Representatives, March 7, 2007

An Act To Enhance the Newborn Hearing Program

Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative MAKAS of Lewiston.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §8824, first ¶**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 647, §2, is amended
3 to read:

4 The department is authorized to implement a tracking system that provides the
5 information necessary to effectively plan ~~and~~, establish and evaluate a comprehensive
6 system of developmentally appropriate services for newborn ~~children and~~ infants and
7 children up to 3 years of age who are deaf or hard-of-hearing and to ensure that all
8 families are given information regarding the availability of hearing screening for their
9 infants. The services must be designed to reduce the likelihood of associated disabling
10 conditions for these children. The tracking system must be integrated with any national
11 database or similar system developed by the Federal Government.

12 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §8824, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 647, §2, is amended
13 to read:

14 **1. Mandatory reporting.** Once the tracking system is operating, all hospitals
15 licensed in the State and other providers of services that have established hearing
16 screening or diagnostic procedures for newborn ~~children and~~ infants and children up to 3
17 years of age shall report to the department all data on hearing screening, evaluation and
18 diagnoses of ~~newborns and~~ newborn infants and children up to 3 years of age. Reports
19 that are required under this subsection must be submitted at least monthly.

20 **SUMMARY**

21 This bill authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to collect data
22 necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of services provided to newborns and children up
23 to 3 years of age, including all screening, evaluation and diagnoses made for such
24 children with, or at risk of, hearing loss. The bill also makes uniform the references to
25 newborn infants and children up to 3 years of age.