

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2008

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Legislative Document

No. 1991

S.P. 785

December 18, 2007

### **An Act To Ensure Continued Operation of the Poison Hotline**

(EMERGENCY)

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 18, 2007. Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

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

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President EDMONDS of Cumberland.

Cosponsored by Representative WEBSTER of Freeport and Senator: MARRACHÉ of Kennebec, Representative: CAIN of Orono.

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

3       **Whereas,** the 90-day period may not terminate until after the beginning of the next  
4 fiscal year; and

5       **Whereas,** the poison hotline provides life-saving and cost-effective health  
6 information to tens of thousands of callers each year; and

7       **Whereas,** funding for the poison hotline, operated by the Northern New England  
8 Poison Center, is overly reliant on private contributions and uncertain state and federal  
9 grants; and

10       **Whereas,** failure to provide adequate funding in the last quarter of the state fiscal  
11 year will reduce the ability of the Poison Hotline to provide life-saving and cost-effective  
12 services; and

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

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

18       **Sec. 1. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
19 allocations are made.

20       **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

21       **Bureau of Health 0143**

22       Initiative: Appropriates funds for grants to the Northern New England Poison Center to  
23 continue operation of the poison hotline.

24			
25	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2008-09</b>
26	All Other	\$170,000	\$680,000
27			
28	<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$170,000</b>	<b>\$680,000</b>

29       **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this  
30 legislation takes effect when approved.

1

## SUMMARY

2       This bill appropriates \$170,000 in 2007-08 and \$680,000 in 2008-09 to the  
3 Department of Health and Human Services for grants to the Northern New England  
4 Poison Center to continue operation of the poison hotline.