

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 924

H.P. 684

House of Representatives, March 8, 2011

An Act To Educate Women on the Medical Risks Associated with Abortion

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Clerk

Presented by Representative ESPLING of New Gloucester.
Cosponsored by Senator MASON of Androscoggin and
Representatives: BURNS of Whiting, CEBRA of Naples, CLARK of Easton, CRAFTS of
Lisbon, CUSHING of Hampden, DUNPHY of Embden, FITZPATRICK of Houlton, FOSTER
of Augusta, GIFFORD of Lincoln, GUERIN of Glenburn, HAMPER of Oxford, HARMON of
Palermo, JOHNSON of Eddington, MAKER of Calais, McCLELLAN of Raymond,
MORISSETTE of Winslow, O'CONNOR of Berwick, OLSEN of Phippsburg, RIOUX of
Winterport, SANDERSON of Chelsea, SIROCKI of Scarborough, TIMBERLAKE of Turner,
VOLK of Scarborough, WILLETTE of Mapleton, Senators: PLOWMAN of Penobscot,
SNOWE-MELLO of Androscoggin.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1599-A, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 61, §4, is
3 repealed.

4 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §1599-A, sub-§3** is enacted to read:

5 **3. Information 24 hours in advance; informed consent.** To ensure that the
6 consent for an abortion is truly informed consent, at least 24 hours before the abortion the
7 attending physician shall provide to the woman the following information, both orally
8 and in writing, and the brochure under subsection 4:

9 A. The name of the physician who is to perform the abortion;

10 B. A description of the procedure to be used;

11 C. The risks of the abortion procedure and the risks of childbirth;

12 D. Scientifically accurate information about the fetus;

13 E. The availability of medical benefits; and

14 F. The father's liability for support.

15 **Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §1599-A, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

16 **4. Brochure.** The department shall publish and periodically update as necessary a
17 brochure that explains the risks of and alternatives to abortion and provides scientifically
18 accurate information concerning the development of a fetus. The brochure must also
19 include information concerning public and private agencies that will provide a woman
20 with economic and other assistance to carry the fetus to term. The department shall send
21 copies of the brochure to each physician licensed and practicing in this State and shall
22 make the brochure available online.

23 **SUMMARY**

24 The bill requires that in order to ensure that informed consent is obtained from a
25 woman seeking an abortion, specific information must be provided both orally and in
26 writing to a woman seeking an abortion at least 24 hours before the abortion is
27 performed. The Department of Health and Human Services shall develop a brochure that
28 contains required information and provide copies to physicians and make the brochure
29 available online.