

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 972

H.P. 686

House of Representatives, March 12, 2013

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

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative AYOTTE of Caswell.
Cosponsored by Senator JACKSON of Aroostook and
Representatives: CRAY of Palmyra, DOAK of Columbia Falls, ESPLING of New Gloucester,
REED of Carmel, WILLETTE of Mapleton, Senators: HAMPER of Oxford, SHERMAN of
Aroostook, THOMAS of Somerset.

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3 repealed.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 and 4** are 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. A description of the procedure to be used;

10 B. The risks of the abortion procedure and the risks of childbirth;

11 C. Scientifically accurate information about the fetus including the results of an
12 ultrasound or sonogram of the fetus;

13 D. The availability of medical benefits; and

14 E. The father's liability for support.

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

22 **SUMMARY**

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