

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 834

H.P. 568

House of Representatives, March 10, 2015

**An Act To Clarify the Use of "M.D." To Represent Achievement of
a Graduate Degree by an Individual Not Licensed To Practice
Medicine in Maine**

Reference to the Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development
suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative HYMANSON of York.
Cosponsored by Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot and
Representatives: BROOKS of Lewiston, SANBORN of Gorham, WINSOR of Norway.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §3270, 2nd ¶**, as amended by PL 1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §204, is
3 further amended to read:

4 Whoever, not being duly licensed by the board, practices medicine or surgery or a
5 branch of medicine or surgery, or purports to practice medicine or surgery or a branch of
6 medicine or surgery in a way cited in this section, or who uses the title "Doctor" or the
7 letters "Dr." or the letters "M.D." in connection with that individual's name, contrary to
8 this section, commits a Class E crime. ~~The prefixing of the title "Doctor" or the letters~~
9 ~~"Dr." or the appending of the letters "M.D." by an individual to that individual's name or~~
10 ~~the use of the title of doctor or physician in any way by an individual not licensed as~~
11 ~~described is prima facie evidence that that individual is purporting to practice medicine or~~
12 ~~surgery contrary to this section, except that nothing~~ Nothing contained in this section
13 prevents an individual who has received the doctor's degree from a reputable college or
14 university, ~~other than the degree of "Doctor of Medicine"~~ from prefixing the letters "Dr."
15 to that individual's name, if that individual is not engaged, and does not engage, in the
16 practice of medicine or surgery or the treatment of a disease or human ailment. Nothing
17 in this chapter may be construed as to affect or prevent the practice of the religious tenets
18 of a church in the ministration to the sick or suffering by mental or spiritual means.

19 **SUMMARY**

20 The bill enables an individual who has earned the graduate degree Doctor of
21 Medicine to use the letters "Dr." or "M.D." prefixed or appended to that individual's
22 name, so long as the individual is not representing to the public that the individual is
23 licensed and authorized to practice medicine in the State.