

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 558

H.P. 402

House of Representatives, February 5, 2019

**An Act To Amend the Continuing Education Requirements for
Prescribers of Opioid Medication**

Reference to the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative HYMANSON of York.
Cosponsored by Senators: CLAXTON of Androscoggin, GRATWICK of Penobscot.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §2210, sub-§4**, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 488, §13, is amended
3 to read:

4 **4. Continuing education.** ~~By December 31, 2017, an~~ An individual licensed under
5 this chapter must successfully complete 3 hours of continuing education ~~every 2 years~~ on
6 the prescription of opioid medication as a condition of prescribing opioid medication.
7 After the completion of an initial 3 hours of continuing education, the individual must
8 successfully complete one hour of continuing education every 2 years on the prescription
9 of opioid medication as a condition of prescribing opioid medication. The board shall
10 adopt rules to implement this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are
11 routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

12 **Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §2600-C, sub-§4**, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 488, §17, is
13 amended to read:

14 **4. Continuing education.** ~~By December 31, 2017, an~~ An individual licensed under
15 this chapter must successfully complete 3 hours of continuing education ~~every 2 years~~ on
16 the prescription of opioid medication as a condition of prescribing opioid medication.
17 After the completion of an initial 3 hours of continuing education, the individual must
18 successfully complete one hour of continuing education every 2 years on the prescription
19 of opioid medication as a condition of prescribing opioid medication. The board shall
20 adopt rules to implement this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are
21 routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

22 **Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §3300-F, sub-§4**, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 488, §20, is
23 amended to read:

24 **4. Continuing education.** ~~By December 31, 2017, an~~ An individual licensed under
25 this chapter must successfully complete 3 hours of continuing education ~~every 2 years~~ on
26 the prescription of opioid medication as a condition of prescribing opioid medication.
27 After the completion of an initial 3 hours of continuing education, the individual must
28 successfully complete one hour of continuing education every 2 years on the prescription
29 of opioid medication as a condition of prescribing opioid medication. The board shall
30 adopt rules to implement this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are
31 routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

32 **Sec. 4. 32 MRSA §3657, sub-§4**, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 488, §23, is amended
33 to read:

34 **4. Continuing education.** ~~By December 31, 2017, an~~ An individual licensed under
35 this chapter must successfully complete 3 hours of continuing education ~~every 2 years~~ on
36 the prescription of opioid medication as a condition of prescribing opioid medication.
37 After the completion of an initial 3 hours of continuing education, the individual must
38 successfully complete one hour of continuing education every 2 years on the prescription
39 of opioid medication as a condition of prescribing opioid medication. The board shall

1 adopt rules to implement this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are
2 routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

3 **Sec. 5. 32 MRSA §18308, sub-§4**, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 488, §32, is
4 amended to read:

5 **4. Continuing education.** ~~By December 31, 2017, an~~ An individual licensed under
6 this chapter must successfully complete 3 hours of continuing education ~~every 2 years~~ on
7 the prescription of opioid medication as a condition of prescribing opioid medication.
8 After the completion of an initial 3 hours of continuing education, the individual must
9 successfully complete one hour of continuing education every 2 years on the prescription
10 of opioid medication as a condition of prescribing opioid medication. The board shall
11 adopt rules to implement this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are
12 routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

13 **SUMMARY**

14 This bill will reduce the amount of opioid prescribing education required of
15 prescribers from 3 hours per license cycle of 2 years to one hour per license cycle of 2
16 years after the licensee has completed an initial 3-hour requirement. It will also require
17 the licensing boards to adopt rules consistent with the reduction in the amount of required
18 prescribing education.