

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 510

S.P. 227

In Senate, February 9, 2023

**An Act to Protect the Public Health by Allowing the Appointment of  
Associate Health Officers**

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Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §411, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

3 **1-A. Associate health officer.** "Associate health officer" means a municipal  
4 employee who has knowledge of the community and meets the educational, training and  
5 experience standards established by the local health officer.

6 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §451, sub-§7** is enacted to read:

7 **7. Associate health officers.** Municipal officers may appoint one or more associate  
8 health officers, as defined in section 411, subsection 1-A, to assist the local health officer  
9 perform the local health officer's duties during an actual or threatened epidemic or other  
10 public health threat. An associate health officer is not required to meet the qualifications  
11 set out in subsection 2 or in rules applicable to local health officers adopted by the  
12 department. An associate health officer must work under the direct supervision of the local  
13 health officer.

14 **Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §454-A, sub-§2, ¶G,** as enacted by PL 2007, c. 598, §7, is  
15 amended to read:

16 G. Act as a resource for connecting residents with the public health services and  
17 resources provided by the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention; ~~and~~

18 **Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §454-A, sub-§2, ¶H,** as enacted by PL 2007, c. 598, §7, is  
19 amended by amending subparagraph (5) to read:

20 (5) Laws pertaining to prohibited dumping under Title 30-A, section 3352-; and

21 **Sec. 5. 22 MRSA §454-A, sub-§2, ¶I** is enacted to read:

22 I. Supervise associate health officers appointed under section 451, subsection 7.

23 **SUMMARY**

24 This bill permits a municipality to hire associate health officers, as defined, to assist  
25 the local health officer during an actual or threatened epidemic or other public health threat.  
26 An associate health officer must have appropriate education, training or experience, is not  
27 required to meet the qualifications of a local health officer and must work under the direct  
28 supervision of the local health officer.