

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 1916

S.P. 778

In Senate, May 9, 2023

### **An Act to Classify Meat and Poultry Products Inspections as Essential Services**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Reference to the Committee on Labor and Housing 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 GUERIN of Penobscot.  
Cosponsored by Representative FOSTER of Dexter and  
Senators: BRENNER of Cumberland, HICKMAN of Kennebec, INGWERSEN of York,  
Representatives: COSTAIN of Plymouth, CRAY of Palmyra, DILL of Old Town, OSHER of  
Orono, PLUECKER of Warren.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 37-B MRSA §742, sub-§1, ¶E**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 28, Pt. C, §1, is  
3 amended to read:

4 E. In dealing with a declared state of emergency under this subsection, the Governor  
5 shall ensure that:

6 (1) Medical privacy and confidentiality requirements, including but not limited to  
7 requirements under the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act  
8 of 1996, are followed; ~~and~~

9 (2) Health care services and surgeries are not considered to be nonessential  
10 services; ~~and~~

11 (3) Inspections under the meat and poultry products inspection and licensing  
12 program under Title 22, chapter 562-A are considered to be essential services.

13 **SUMMARY**

14 This bill requires the Governor, in dealing with a declared state of emergency, to ensure  
15 that inspections under the meat and poultry products inspection and licensing program are  
16 considered to be essential services.