

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2024

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Legislative Document

No. 2044

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H.P. 1306

House of Representatives, December 13, 2023

### An Act to Update Air Quality Health Warnings

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Submitted by the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 11, 2023. Referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative DOUDERA of Camden.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §584-F**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 79, §2, is further amended to  
3 read:

4 **§584-F. ~~Ozone~~ Air quality health warnings**

5 **1. Dissemination of warnings to media and public.** Whenever ~~monitored data~~  
6 ~~demonstrates or~~ the department predicts that ~~ground-level ozone~~ ambient air concentrations  
7 ~~have exceeded or~~ of a pollutant will exceed .08 parts per million averaged over an 8-hour  
8 ~~period reach the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Air Quality Index~~  
9 category of Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups or a higher category, the department shall  
10 disseminate a health warning to the mass media, including but not limited to television,  
11 radio and print media, and shall urge the media to issue the warning to the general public.  
12 The department shall use best efforts to educate the media as to the need to broadly  
13 disseminate health warnings to the public. In disseminating a warning under this  
14 subsection, the department shall also use the most appropriate technology available to  
15 disseminate health warnings directly to the public.

16 **2. ~~Telephone hot line~~ Daily ground-level ozone concentration information.** The  
17 department shall provide information to the public on daily ground-level ozone  
18 concentrations by a toll-free ozone information telephone ~~hot line~~ hotline or through other  
19 appropriate technology.

20 **SUMMARY**

21 Current law requires the Department of Environmental Protection to disseminate a  
22 health warning to the mass media when ground-level ozone concentrations have exceeded  
23 or will exceed .08 parts per million averaged over an 8-hour period. This bill instead  
24 requires the department to disseminate a health warning to the mass media when ambient  
25 air concentrations of a pollutant reach the United States Environmental Protection Agency's  
26 Air Quality Index category of Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups or a higher category. The  
27 bill also requires the department to disseminate health warnings directly to the public using  
28 appropriate technology and authorizes the use of other appropriate technology besides a  
29 telephone hotline when providing information to the public on daily ground-level ozone  
30 concentrations.