

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - F I R S T L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 192

H. P. 259

House of Representatives, January 28, 1943.

Referred to the Committee on Public Health, sent up for concurrence and 1,000 ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Miss Clough of Bangor.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-THREE

AN ACT Relating to Infectious and Communicable Diseases.

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

P. L., 1933, c. 1, §§ 37, 38 and 39, amended. Sections 37, 38 and 39 of chapter 1 of the public laws of 1933, as amended, are hereby repealed and the following sections enacted in place thereof:

'Sec. 37. Definition; duties of physicians and officers of institutions; reports to state bureau of health. Syphilis, gonorrhoea, chancroid, and lymphogranuloma venereum are hereby declared to be infectious and communicable diseases, dangerous to the public health.

Every physician in the state shall report in writing to the state bureau of health within 48 hours of the time the fact comes to the knowledge of said physician, the name, age, sex, color, occupation, and address of every person known by said physician to have any of the above diseases.

Such reports shall be made on forms furnished by the state bureau of health, and shall be held confidential by the said bureau, provided such information may be used in such manner as may be necessary by agents of the said bureau for protection of the public health.

The chief officer having charge for the time being of any hospital,

asylum, dispensary, jail, sanatorium, or other similar private or public institution in the state, shall report in like manner any cases of the above named diseases which come into his care or under his observation.'

'Sec. 38. State bureau of health may require examination; limitation. The state bureau of health is hereby empowered to make such investigations as may be necessary to ascertain the source of any infectious or communicable disease, and in case of named contacts of any such disease, may require such examination by a competent medical practitioner as is necessary to determine whether such persons are infected or carriers of the disease named.

Nothing in this act shall be construed as denying to any person the right to be examined by a licensed physician of his own choice.'

'Sec. 39. Penalty; court jurisdiction. Any person failing to comply with the provisions of the 2 preceding sections, or who having been named as a contact refuses to comply, or fails to comply within a reasonable period of time, with the provisions of the regulations of the department concerning any communicable disease, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100, or by imprisonment for not more than 11 months, or by both such fine and imprisonment. Municipal courts shall have jurisdiction of the above concurrently with the superior court.'