

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 800**

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S. P. 293

In Senate, February 13, 1947.

Referred to Committee on Public Health. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Clough of Penobscot.

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**STATE OF MAINE**

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FORTY-SEVEN

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**AN ACT Relating to Immunization Against Certain Infectious Diseases.**

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

**R. S., c. 22, § 54, repealed and replaced.** Section 54 of chapter 22 of the revised statutes is hereby repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

Sec. 54. Free vaccination provided, annually. The local health officer of each city, town and plantation shall annually on a day or days specified by him during the month of March, or oftener if he deems it prudent, provide for the free vaccination with cowpox of all inhabitants within his jurisdiction; and shall provide for free inoculation with suitable material against diphtheria and whooping cough of all children under 12 years of age at a time specified by him not less than 1 month preceding the fall opening of public schools. Vaccinations and inoculations shall be done under the care of skilled, practicing physicians and under such circumstances and restrictions as the health officer may adopt therefor, not contrary to law or in violation of any regulations of the department of health and welfare.

The health officer is authorized and empowered to arrange with any available, skilled, practicing physician for the purpose of carrying out the

provisions of this section, and when he deems it necessary, for the proper discharge of his duties as outlined in section 36 of this chapter, anything in any city charter to the contrary notwithstanding.

The municipal officers of cities, towns and plantations shall approve, and the cities, towns and plantations shall pay any reasonable bills or charges incident to the foregoing when approved by the local health officer.

Nothing in this section is to be interpreted so as to relieve the local health officer or any selectman of the duty imposed by section 40 of this chapter.