

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Legislative Document

No. 910

S. P. 384

In Senate, February 23, 1951.

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

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Leavitt of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-ONE

AN ACT Relating to Compulsory Vaccination.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 22, § 54-A, additional. Chapter 22 of the revised statutes is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to be numbered 54-A, to read as follows:

‘Sec. 54-A. Compulsory vaccination. All children in the state of Maine on entering any school shall present to the teacher or superintendent of schools evidence of having been inoculated with the virus of cowpox to prevent smallpox and all such children under 12 years of age shall present a certificate from a physician or health officer that such child has been immunized against diphtheria. In lieu of such evidence a child may present to the teacher a written statement signed by a physician that the physical condition of the child is such that said inoculations would be injurious to health, or a written statement made by the child's parent or guardian that they object to such inoculations on the grounds of religious belief. Parents or guardians of such children shall be responsible for having them provided with the necessary statements in compliance with this section.

Every town and organized plantation within the state shall provide annually, previous to the beginning of the school year, opportunity for free

immunization against diphtheria of non-immune children. The bureau of health shall provide opportunity for such immunization in the unorganized territory of the state.'

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 22, § 59, amended. Section 59 of chapter 22 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows :

'Sec. 59. Penalty. Whoever violates any provisions of the ~~4~~ 5 preceding sections shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$50.'