

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 949**

S. P. 401

In Senate, February 27, 1951

Tabled by Senator Ward of Penobscot pending reference. Bill ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

Presented by Senator Reid of Kennebec.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FIFTY-ONE

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**AN ACT** Relating to Vital Statistics.

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

**Sec. 1. R. S., c. 22, § 370, amended.** Section 370 of chapter 22 of the revised statutes, as amended, is hereby repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

‘Sec. 370. Physicians in attendance to furnish certificate of name, age, disease and date of birth of deceased. A physician who has attended a person during his last illness shall within 24 hours after the death of said person make a certificate stating, to the best of his knowledge and belief, the name of the deceased, his age, the disease of which he died, and the date of his death, and shall either deliver it to the person superintending the burial or leave it with the family of the deceased or at the said physician’s office where it may be obtained when called for; and whenever any deceased person did not have the attendance of a physician in his or her last sickness, or in case of sudden death, the person in whose house the said death occurred, or the nearest relative of the deceased shall upon finding the body immediately call a physician to view the body and give to him all the information concerning said death. Upon receiving this information

aforesaid the physician called shall make a certificate setting forth the data he has obtained from said persons, and to the best of his knowledge and belief the cause of death. After having made the certificate as aforesaid he shall then deliver same to the funeral director in charge of the burial, or leave it with the family of the deceased where it may be obtained when called for; provided, however, that if the physician called in such case is not a medical examiner, and the information obtained concerning said death indicates that said person died under suspicious or unusual circumstances he shall thereupon call a medical examiner before making and filing said certificate as to the cause of death. Any person who wilfully makes a false return or wilfully gives false information to be used in preparing a record of death shall be punished as provided in section 390 of this chapter.'

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 22, § 373, repealed. Section 373 of chapter 22 of the revised statutes is hereby repealed.

Sec. 3. R. S., c. 22, § 379, amended. Section 379 of chapter 22 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 379. Reports to clerk of births and deaths. Within 6 days following such events, parents shall report to the clerk of their city or town the births or deaths of their children; ~~householders shall report every birth or death happening in their houses; the oldest person, next of kin, shall report the death of his kindred; the keeper of a workhouse, house of correction, prison, hospital, almshouse, or other institution, and the master or other commanding officer of a ship shall report every birth or death happening among the persons under his charge any person in charge of a hospital or other related institution, or any person in charge of any ship in this state shall report every birth or death happening among the persons under their charge; and the parents and other persons enumerated in this section shall not be absolved from the duty of reporting births until the names of the children have been given to the clerk of the city or town in which the births occur; and a physician or midwife who has attended at the birth of a child dying immediately thereafter, or at the birth of a stillborn child, shall forthwith furnish for registration a certificate stating to the best of his or her knowledge and belief the fact that such child died after birth or was born dead. Any person who wilfully makes a false return or wilfully gives false information to be used in preparing a record of birth or death shall be punished as provided in section 390 of this chapter.'~~