

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

December 5, 1984 to June 20, 1985
Chapters 384-End

AND AT THE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

November 13, 1985

PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF REVISOR OF STATUTES IN
ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

J.S. McCarthy Co., Inc.
Augusta, Maine
1985

PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED AT THE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
CONTINUED

and

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

of the

ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE

1985

CHAPTER 452

H.P. 953 - L.D. 1372

AN ACT Establishing a System for the Reporting of Selected Occupational Diseases.

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA c. 259-A is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 259-A

OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE REPORTING

§1491. Occupational disease reporting

As used in this chapter the term "occupational disease" means any abnormal condition or disorder, other than resulting from an occupational injury, caused by exposure to environmental factors associated with employment. Occupational diseases shall include the following: Asbestosis; mesothelioma; silicosis; and exposure to heavy metals. Reporting of other occupational diseases may be required only by departmental rules.

§1492. Occupational disease reporting system

The Department of Human Services shall establish, maintain and operate a statewide occupational disease reporting system. The data collected shall be analyzed and interpreted in order to better identify risk factors associated with occupational diseases and strategies to prevent or reduce these risks. The results of this analysis shall be made available to the public.

§1493. Duties of physicians and hospitals

All physicians or hospitals shall report to the Department of Human Services all persons diagnosed as having an occupational disease no later than 30 days from the date of diagnosis or from discharge from a hospital. The report shall include any factor known to the physician which is suspected of being a contributing factor to the disease, including, but not limited to, whether or not the person smokes and, if so, the frequency of smoking.

A physician, upon notification by the Department of Human Services, shall report to the department any further information requested by the department concerning any person now or formerly under his care, diagnosed as having or having had an occupational disease.

No physician or hospital complying with the reporting requirements of this section may be liable for any civil damages as a result of those acts.

§1494. Confidentiality

The names and related information which may identify individuals having an occupational disease shall be confidential and may be released only to other public health officials, agents or agencies, or by court order or by written authorization of the individual being reported on. All other information submitted pursuant to this chapter may be made available to the public.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	<u>1985-86</u>	<u>1986-87</u>
<u>HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT</u>		
<u>OF</u>		
Bureau of Health		
Positions	(1/2)	(1/2)
Personal Services	\$ 5,196	\$ 7,205
All Other	6,000	8,000
Capital Expenditures	<u>3,400</u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL	\$14,596	\$15,205

Effective September 19, 1985.

CHAPTER 453

H.P. 834 - L.D. 1178

AN ACT to Establish a Vehicle Rental Agency
in the Department of Conservation.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legisla-