



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 443

S.P. 121

In Senate, January 29, 2019

**An Act To Prevent Vitamin K Deficiency Bleeding and Eye Damage
in Infants**

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator SANBORN, L. of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford and
Senators: BREEN of Cumberland, CLAXTON of Androscoggin.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1531**, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 848, §2, is amended to read:

3 **§1531. Care of infants after birth**

4 Every physician, midwife or nurse in charge shall instill or cause to be instilled into
5 the eyes of an infant upon its birth one or 2 drops of a prophylactic solution prescribed by
6 the department and provided without cost by the department, ~~except an infant whose~~
7 ~~parents object to this procedure on the grounds that it conflicts with their religious tenets~~
8 ~~and practices.~~ If one or both eyes of an infant become reddened or inflamed at any time
9 within 4 weeks after birth, the midwife, nurse or person having charge of the infant shall
10 report the condition of the eyes at once to a physician licensed under Title 32, chapter 36
11 or 48. Every physician, midwife or nurse in charge shall administer 0.5 or 1 milligram,
12 based on the infant's weight, of vitamin K to an infant intramuscularly. Failure to comply
13 with this section ~~shall be~~ is punishable by a fine of not more than \$100 or by
14 imprisonment for not more than 6 months.

15 **SUMMARY**

16 This bill requires every physician, midwife or nurse in charge at the birth of an infant
17 to administer vitamin K to an infant intramuscularly to prevent vitamin K deficiency
18 bleeding in infants. This bill also removes the exemption for religious tenets and
19 practices for the administration of a prophylactic solution instilled into an infant's eyes at
20 birth.