



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1485

H.P. 976

House of Representatives, April 3, 2025

**An Act to Create a Minimum Standard of Pathology for Children
Under 3 Years of Age Who Die of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
or an Unknown Cause**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative QUINT of Hodgdon.
Cosponsored by Representatives: GREENWOOD of Wales, HENDERSON of Rumford,
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, Senator: HAGGAN of Penobscot.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3028, sub-§9-A** is enacted to read:

3 **9-A. Certain deaths of children under 3 years of age.** If a medical examiner has
4 determined that a child under 3 years of age has died as a result of sudden infant death
5 syndrome or if the medical examiner is unable to determine the cause of death for a child
6 under 3 years of age, the Chief Medical Examiner shall, at the request of the child's parent
7 or legal guardian, preserve and retain sufficient tissue samples and other evidence
8 necessary to make a subsequent determination of the cause of death for one year following
9 the date of death of the child. Such evidence must be made accessible to the parent or
10 guardian of the child.

11 **SUMMARY**

12 This bill provides that if a medical examiner has determined that a child under 3 years
13 of age has died as a result of sudden infant death syndrome or if the medical examiner is
14 unable to determine the cause of death for a child under 3 years of age, the Chief Medical
15 Examiner must, at the request of the child's parent or legal guardian, preserve and retain
16 sufficient tissue samples and other evidence necessary to make a subsequent determination
17 of the cause of death for one year following the date of death of the child. Such evidence
18 must be made accessible to the parent or guardian of the child.