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## **An Act To Clarify the Provision for Care of Infants after Birth**

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

**Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1531, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 426, §1, is amended to read:

**1. Prophylactic ophthalmic ointment and reporting requirement.** Every physician, midwife or nurse in charge shall instill or cause to be instilled into the eyes of an infant within 24 hours after its birth prophylactic ophthalmic ointment ~~prescribed by the department and provided without cost by the department.~~ If one or both eyes of an infant become reddened or inflamed at any time within 4 weeks after birth, the midwife, nurse or person having charge of the infant shall report the condition of the eyes at once to a ~~physician~~ the infant's primary care provider licensed under Title 32, chapter 36 or 48.

**Sec. 2. PL 2019, c. 426, §2** is amended to read:

**Sec. 2. Department of Health and Human Services to ~~amend~~develop form.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall ~~amend its newborn blood spot screening refusal form to include a section permitting~~ develop an ophthalmic ointment and vitamin K injection refusal form that permits a parent to refuse the prophylactic ophthalmic ointment or vitamin K injection required under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 1531 for the infant of that parent.

### **SUMMARY**

This bill makes the following changes to the laws governing the administration of prophylactic ophthalmic ointment and vitamin K injections to infants:

1. It specifies that the incidence of inflamed or reddened eyes in an infant be reported to the infant's primary care provider rather than to an unspecified physician;
2. It removes language specifying that the ophthalmic ointment is prescribed and provided without cost by the Department of Health and Human Services; and
3. It requires the department to develop a form to be used by a parent wishing to refuse the prophylactic ophthalmic ointment or vitamin K injection that is separate from the newborn blood spot screening refusal form.