

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

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

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

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

§ 1531. Care of infants after birth

Every physician, midwife or nurse in charge shall instill or cause to be instilled into the eyes of an infant upon its birth one or 2 drops of a prophylactic solution prescribed by the department and provided without cost by the department, ~~except an infant whose parents object to this procedure on the grounds that it conflicts with their religious tenets and practices.~~ 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 licensed under Title 32, chapter 36 or 48. Every physician, midwife or nurse in charge shall administer 0.5 or 1 milligram, based on the infant's weight, of vitamin K to an infant intramuscularly. Failure to comply with this section shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$100 or by imprisonment for not more than 6 months.

SUMMARY

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