



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2020

Legislative Document

No. 2040

H.P. 1451

House of Representatives, January 16, 2020

**An Act To Eliminate the Requirement That Municipalities Retain
Paper Copies of Certain Vital Statistics Records**

Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 203.
Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

Robert B. Hunt
ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BAILEY of Saco.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §2843, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 101, §2, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **4. Records.** Each municipality shall maintain a record of any endorsed permit
5 received pursuant to subsection 3 or 3-A in the electronic death registration system
6 described in section 2847. ~~These records must be open to public inspection~~ A copy of an
7 endorsed permit must be made available to a member of the public upon a request made
8 to the municipal clerk. The State Registrar of Vital Statistics may adopt routine technical
9 rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A to carry out the purposes of this
10 subsection.

11 **SUMMARY**

12 This bill eliminates municipal paper record retention requirements for maintaining
13 death disposition permits and requires those permits to be maintained in the electronic
14 death registration system. A copy of a permit must be made available to a member of the
15 public upon a request made to the municipal clerk.