



# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

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Legislative Document

No. 1166

S.P. 387

In Senate, March 23, 2017

### An Act Regarding Anesthesia Care in Rural Maine

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Reference to the Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CUSHING of Penobscot.  
Cosponsored by Representative FECTEAU of Biddeford and  
Senators: LANGLEY of Hancock, VOLK of Cumberland, Representatives: AUSTIN of Gray,  
BATES of Westbrook, HICKMAN of Winthrop, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, POULIOT of  
Augusta, STETKIS of Canaan.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §2211** is enacted to read:

3 **§2211. Nurse anesthetist; authority**

4 **1. Definitions.** For purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise indicates,  
5 the following terms have the following meanings.

6 A. "Critical access hospital" has the same meaning as in Title 22, section 7932,  
7 subsection 10.

8 B. "Rural area" has the same meaning as in Title 22, section 5104, subsection 10.

9 **2. Authority generally.** A certified registered nurse anesthetist is responsible and  
10 accountable to a licensed physician or dentist for aspects of anesthesia practice that  
11 require execution of the medical regimen as prescribed by that physician or dentist,  
12 except as provided in subsection 3.

13 **3. Authority; critical access hospitals and rural hospitals.** In a critical access  
14 hospital or in a hospital located in a rural area, a certified registered nurse anesthetist  
15 may, in accordance with the bylaws and policies of the facility in which the certified  
16 registered nurse anesthetist is practicing, formulate and implement a patient-specific plan  
17 for anesthesia care, which may include:

18 A. A preanesthetic assessment;

19 B. Verification of informed consent;

20 C. Adjustments and corrective actions as indicated;

21 D. Ordering appropriate laboratory tests and diagnostic imaging tests in the  
22 preoperative period and immediate postoperative period; and

23 E. Ordering and prescribing prescription drugs in the preoperative period and  
24 immediate postoperative period in accordance with this paragraph. For controlled  
25 substances listed in United States Drug Enforcement Administration Schedules III,  
26 IIIN, IV and V, a certified registered nurse anesthetist may prescribe drugs only:

27 (1) For a supply of not more than 4 days, with no prescription refills; and

28 (2) For an individual for whom the certified registered nurse anesthetist has, at  
29 the time of the prescription, established a client or patient record.

30 **Sec. 2. Rules.** The State Board of Nursing shall adopt rules to implement this Act.  
31 Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in the Maine  
32 Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

33 **SUMMARY**

34 This bill permits certified registered nurse anesthetists in critical access hospitals and  
35 hospitals located in rural areas to conduct a preanesthetic assessment, verify informed

1 consent, make indicated adjustments and corrections, order appropriate lab tests and  
2 diagnostic imaging tests and prescribe certain drugs.