

Janet T. Mills  
Governor

Sara Gagné-Holmes  
Commissioner



Maine Department of Health and Human Services  
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention  
11 State House Station  
286 Water Street  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011  
Tel; (207) 287-8016; Fax (207) 287-2887  
TTY: Dial 711 (Maine Relay)

4/14/2025

Senator Ingwersen, Chair  
Representative Meyer, Chair  
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 1460 – *An Act to Require Parents to Be Informed of Hospitals' Safe Sleep Rules*

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide information in opposition to LD 1460, *An Act to Require Parents to Be Informed of Hospitals' Safe Sleep Rules*.

LD 1460 requires a hospital to inform parents of a child who is to be an inpatient in a hospital about any “safe sleep rules” the hospital may have to keep children safe from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID), accidental suffocation or other sleep injuries while an inpatient in the hospital. It further requires the hospital to provide a copy of the safe sleep rule to a parent and obtain a parent’s signature as evidence they have reviewed and understood the rule, including possible penalties for non-compliance with the hospital’s rule.

The Department is in opposition to LD 1460, both from a licensing and public health perspective. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) currently require hospitals to fully inform patients or guardians of medical conditions and include them in the development of plan for treatment. Though CMS doesn't have a specific certification program, they do emphasize safe sleep guidelines for hospitals and encourage safe sleep practices. All birthing hospitals in Maine are safe sleep certified meaning they follow the recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics regarding safe sleep for infants through their first year<sup>1</sup>. These same hospitals provide education during the family’s stay in the labor and delivery unit. Maine Center Disease Control and Prevention – Maternal Child Health (MCH) Program has developed resources available to parents and families promoting the safe sleep guidelines. Penalizing families for not following recommendations is not an effective way to increase compliance and does not take into consideration a family’s cultural or religious beliefs.

The Department supports efforts that encourage safe sleep recommendations to decrease the risk of unsafe sleep injuries (SIDS, SUID, etc) for newborns, however, it is unclear whether this bill will increase patient safety or provide any measurable improvement in compliance or protection for hospital liability should noncompliance with a hospital’s safe sleep rules result in avoidable harm of

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<sup>1</sup> Cribs for Kids’ National Safe Sleep Hospital Certification program recognizes hospitals and hospital systems for their commitment to infant safe sleep to reduce unsafe sleep injuries, modeling and teaching current American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) best practices outlined in the Cribs for Kids Certification Manual and Hospital.  
<https://cribsforkids.org/hospitalcertification/>

an inpatient infant. Additionally, where LD 1460 refers to *children*, which is not defined in this bill, safe sleep guidelines target newborns through one year of age, whether hospital rules address children is unclear, though studies show hospital-based education and behavior modeling is associated with an increased likelihood of mothers reporting safe infant sleep practices at home in the months following birth.

In conclusion, the Department is in opposition of LD 1460 as Maine hospitals who are safe sleep certified already educate parents on the recommendations set forth by the American Academy of Pediatrics. This legislation is an administrative burden and likely not impactful on patient safety as intended; hospitals are not required at the present to maintain a *sleep safe rule* and the bill does not specify components required for safe sleep rules.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions during your deliberation of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony Va.", is positioned above the typed name.

Puthiery Va, DO  
Director  
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention  
Maine Department of Health and Human Services