

American Academy of Pediatrics, Maine Chapter

2015 Legislative Highlights

The First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature was very active and despite the familiar challenges of bi-partisan politics, Pediatricians and MAAP Leadership advocated either for or against 30 unique bills with many successes – read full report.

A sincere thank you to all of the Maine AAP Members who provided research, data, testimony and took time to contact and meet one-on-one with their legislators. An active membership and collective voice makes a strong statement and encourages deeper thought around the potential implications and injustices individual bills may present. Our participation and expertise is instrumental in educating lawmakers and citizens so we can jointly work toward positive policy changes promoting the health and safety of Maine’s children.

In addition to advocacy on specific legislation, the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Maine Resilience Building Network, and the Coalition for the Advancement of Child & Adolescent Mental Health collaborated to hold a legislative breakfast session to share information about the impact of trauma and ACEs and provide resources for our Senators and Representatives. In addition to the breakfast, an MAAP member served as Doctor of the Day through the Maine Medical Association program and was able to distribute important information about statewide resources on trauma, adverse childhood experiences and resilience efforts and legislator’s questions.

Maine AAP’s Active Legislation Scoresheet

HEALTH SCREENING

- LD 213: An Act to Ensure the Comprehensive Medical, Dental, Educational and Behavioral Assessment of Children Entering State Custody**
- Verbal and written testimony provided in support, MMA supported
 - Ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence. (carried over – no decision made)
- LD 663: To Require That the Department of Health and Human Services Determine Whether Testing for Krabbe Disease Should Be Required for Newborns**
- Testimony provided in opposition, MMA monitored
 - BILL WAS KILLED
- LD 231: An Act To Ensure That Schoolchildren with Dyslexia Receive the Assistance Needed**
- Testimony provided in favor, MMA monitored
 - Bill became law on 7/12/15
- LD 1118: To Establish the Study Commission on the Social Emotional Learning and Development of Maine's Young Children**
- Testimony provided, MMA Supported
 - BILL WAS KILLED.
- LD 1229: Create a Pilot Program To Conduct Screenings for Scotopic Sensitivity Syndrome**
- MAAP and MMA supported
 - BILL WAS KILLED.

E-CIGARETTES & MARIJUANA

LD 423: An Act To Require Child-resistant Packaging for Products Containing Liquid Nicotine

- Written and Verbal testimony provided in support, MMA Supported
- Bill was rejected by the Governor, but vetoed and BECAME LAW

LD 1108: An Act To Protect Children and the Public from Electronic Cigarette Vapor

- Written testimony in favor, MMA favored
- BECAME LAW without Governor

LD 1380: An Act To Legalize, Tax and Regulate Marijuana

- Written testimony in opposition, MMA monitored
- BILL WAS KILLED.

LD 1401: An Act To Allow for and Regulate the Adult Use of Cannabis

- Written testimony in opposition, MMA monitored
- BILL WAS KILLED.

VACCINATIONS

LD 1076: An Act To Enact the Vaccine Consumer Protection Program

- No testimony from MAAP, MMA in opposition
- Vetoed but overridden, BECAME LAW

LD 606: An Act To Remove the Philosophical Exemption from the Immunization Requirements for School Students and Employees of Nursery Schools and Health Care Facilities, Testimony Provided

- Written and Verbal testimony in favor by MAAP, MMA supported
- BILL WAS KILLED

LD 471: An Act To Improve Childhood Vaccination Rates in Maine

- Testimony provided in favor by MAAP
- BILL WAS KILLED

LD 1218: An Act Regarding the Administration of Vaccines by Pharmacists

- Written testimony provided in opposition by MAAP, MMA Opposed
- BECAME LAW

LD 327: An Act To Require Prescribers of Controlled Substances To Use the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program Software

- Testimony provided in opposition, MMA Opposed
- BILL WAS KILLED

UPDATING STATE STANDARDS TO FEDERAL STANDARDS

LD 948: An Act To Harmonize Maine's Laws Governing Toxic Chemicals in Children's Products with Those of Other State

- Testimony provided by MAAP in favor, MMA monitored
- BILL WAS KILLED

LD 1115: An Act To Make the State's Standard for Lead Exposure in Children Consistent with the Federal Standard

- Testimony provided by MAAP in favor, MMA monitored
- BILL WAS KILLED

PATIENT CARE POLICIES

LD 83: An Act to Strengthen the Consent Laws for Abortions Performed on Minors and Incapacitated Persons

- Testimony written in opposition
- BILL WAS KILLED

LD 474: An Act To Improve Access to Dental Care in Maine

- MAAP supported and MMA monitored
- BILL WAS KILLED

LD 422: An Act To Improve Access to Treatments for Lyme Disease

- MMA Opposed
- BECAME LAW without Governor

LD 1117: An Act To Clarify the Policy for Withdrawal of Life Support from Minors

- Testimony provided in opposition, MMA Opposed
- BECAME LAW

HEALTHCARE POLICIES

LD 123: An Act To Reduce Youth Cancer Risk (tanning bed use regulation)

- Written and Verbal testimony provided by MAAP, MMA supported
- BILL WAS KILLED

LD 179: Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To Provide Coverage under the MaineCare Program for Routine Male Newborn Circumcisions

- Testimony provided in support
- BILL WAS KILLED

LD 552: An Act To Provide Funding for Home Visiting Services

- Testimony provided in support
- Ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence. (carried over – no decision made)

LD 622: An Act To Provide Training of Mandated Reporters of Child Abuse Laws

- Testimony provided in support
- Ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence. (carried over – no decision made)

LD 667: Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To Educate the Public and Department Clients about How To Protect One's Family from Bisphenol A

- Testimony provided in support, MMA supported
- BILL WAS KILLED

LD 808: An Act To Decrease Uncompensated Care, Reduce Medical Debt and Improve Health Outcomes

- Testimony provided in support
- BILL WAS KILLED

- LD 854: An Act To Increase Access to Health Security by Expanding Federally Funded Health Care for Maine People**
- Testimony provided in support
 - BILL WAS KILLED

PUBLIC & PERSONAL HEALTH POLICIES

- LD 711: An Act To Provide for a Later Starting Time for High Schools**
- Written and verbal testimony provided in support
 - BILL WAS KILLED

- LD 199: An Act To Improve the Reporting of Child Abuse**
- Written and verbal testimony provided in support
 - BECAME LAW

- LD 970: An Act Regarding Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Requirements**
- MAAP and MMA Opposed
 - Ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence. (carried over – no decision made)