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 Provide for Prescription Monitoring and Protection of Personal Patient Information

CONCEPT DRAFT SUMMARY

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to amend current law to establish an electronic prescription drug monitoring system to enhance patient safety by providing a means to avoid medication errors. The electronic prescription drug monitoring system will allow pharmacists, physicians and other authorized health care providers to obtain a complete record of all drugs prescribed to a patient, identify the prescribing physician for each drug and list the dates on which each prescription was filled. This information will give health care providers additional means to ensure that patients do not have adverse reactions due to incompatible drug interactions or over-prescription of medications from multiple prescribing physicians. The bill proposes to direct the Department of Health and Human Services to apply for federal funds and seek other funding sources to develop the electronic prescription drug monitoring system.

This bill also proposes to amend current law to prevent the unauthorized collection, use, sale or exchange of confidential patient prescription drug information for commercial use, financial gain or other unauthorized purposes and to levy penalties that are stringent enough to deter these activities.