



# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2018

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Legislative Document

No. 1735

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S.P. 634

In Senate, December 22, 2017

**An Act To Authorize Regional Medical Control Committees To  
Have Access to Maine Emergency Medical Services Data for  
Purposes of Quality Improvement**

(EMERGENCY)

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 19, 2017. Referred to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President THIBODEAU of Waldo.  
Cosponsored by Representative TIMBERLAKE of Turner and  
Senators: DAVIS of Piscataquis, DESCHAMBAULT of York, DIAMOND of Cumberland,  
VOLK of Cumberland, Representatives: DENNO of Cumberland, GILLWAY of Searsport,  
GOLDEN of Lewiston, MAREAN of Hollis.

1           **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not  
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3           **Whereas,** critical and lifesaving emergency medical services are provided to  
4 patients on a daily basis in both rural and urban areas; and

5           **Whereas,** circumstances arise in which the provision of emergency medical services  
6 requires review for the purposes of quality improvement so that services may be  
7 delivered in a safe and efficient manner that produces maximum benefit to the health of  
8 the patient; and

9           **Whereas,** delay in reviews increases the risk of service delivery that may be less  
10 safe or less efficient or does not produce maximum benefit to the health of the patient;  
11 and

12           **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within  
13 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as  
14 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,  
15 therefore,

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

17           **Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §89, sub-§2, ¶A,** as amended by PL 1991, c. 588, §18, is  
18 further amended to read:

19           A. Establishing a regional medical control committee to carry out a plan of quality  
20 improvement;

21           **Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §91-B, sub-§2, ¶E,** as amended by PL 2015, c. 82, §8, is  
22 further amended to read:

23           E. Data collected by Maine Emergency Medical Services that allows identification of  
24 persons receiving emergency medical treatment may be released for purposes of  
25 research, public health surveillance and linkage with patient electronic medical  
26 records if the release is approved by the board, the Medical Direction and Practices  
27 Board and the director and may be released for the purposes of quality improvement  
28 to a regional medical control committee that has been approved by the board to carry  
29 out a plan of quality improvement. Information that specifically identifies  
30 individuals must be removed from the information disclosed pursuant to this  
31 paragraph, unless the board, the Medical Direction and Practices Board and the  
32 director determine that the release of such information is necessary for the purposes  
33 of the research, public health surveillance or linkage with patient electronic medical  
34 records or unless the release is for the purposes of quality improvement and is to a  
35 regional medical control committee that has been approved by the board to carry out  
36 a plan of quality improvement.

37           **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this  
38 legislation takes effect when approved.

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## SUMMARY

This bill, which is emergency legislation, authorizes a regional medical control committee that has been approved by the Department of Public Safety, Emergency Medical Services' Board to carry out a plan of quality improvement to have access to data collected by Maine Emergency Medical Services that allows identification of persons receiving emergency medical treatment for the purpose of quality improvement.