

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

to a child who the department has determined is jeopardized or adversely affected or threatened by crisis.

§ 3903. Short term

Such care as may be contracted for pursuant to section 3902 shall not, in any individual case, exceed 3 consecutive days or 72 hours without the commencement of action pursuant to chapter 1055.

§ 3904. Voluntary care

No child shall be forced to accept any benefits pursuant to this chapter, but the care shall be given only to voluntary participants. No child may receive any benefits pursuant to this chapter, outside of his home, if his parent or legal guardian objects thereto.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to provide for the protection of children whose health and welfare are jeopardized or adversely affected or threatened by crisis, but who are not in need of protective custody pursuant to Title 22, chapter 1055. This bill will enable the department to provide short term emergency care to such children without invoking court action.

More than 1,000 children are apprehended by police in Maine each year. This bill will authorize the Department of Human Services to provide services to these youth for a period not to exceed 72 hours as part of the treatment system to counsel the youth and facilitate his or her return home or commence action pursuant to Title 22, chapter 1055.