

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

No. 453

H.P. 337

House of Representatives, January 14, 1999

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**An Act to Prohibit the Department of Human Services from Closing  
Adolescent Cases before 18 Years of Age.**

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Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative QUINT of Portland.  
Cosponsored by Senator RAND of Cumberland and  
Representatives: BRAGDON of Bangor, DAVIDSON of Brunswick, MITCHELL of  
Vassalboro, MUSE of South Portland, NORBERT of Portland, THOMPSON of Naples,  
TOWNSEND of Portland, Senator: MITCHELL of Penobscot.

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

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Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4004, sub-§2, ¶C, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 733, §18, is amended to read:

C. Determine the degree of harm or threatened harm to each child in each case; and

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4004, sub-§2, ¶C-1 is enacted to read:

C-1. In the case of a person who has attained 13 years of age and for whom the department has received a report of abuse or neglect, not terminate its monitoring of that person's welfare, or other action under paragraph D, until that person has attained 18 years of age; and

**SUMMARY**

This bill amends the Department of Human Service's duties regarding protection of abused and neglected children. It adds to those duties the following: in the case of an adolescent for whom the department has received an abuse or neglect report, the department must continue to monitor the adolescent's welfare or take other appropriate protective actions until the adolescent reaches 18 years of age.