

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 213

S.P. 82

In Senate, February 3, 2015

**An Act To Ensure the Comprehensive Medical, Dental, Educational
and Behavioral Assessment of Children Entering State Custody**

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

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

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative HAMANN of South Portland and
Senators: DILL of Penobscot, DUTREMBLE of York, MIRAMANT of Knox,
Representatives: McCREIGHT of Harpswell, MORRISON of South Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4063-A**, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 194, is amended to read:

3 **§4063-A. Medical examination; comprehensive assessment**

4 **1. Physical examination required.** The department shall ensure that a child ordered
5 into its custody receives an appointment for a medical examination by a licensed
6 physician or nurse practitioner within ~~10~~ 3 working days after the department's custody of
7 the child commences.

8 ~~**2. Psychological assessment.** If the physician or nurse practitioner who performs a
9 physical examination pursuant to subsection 1 determines that a psychological assessment
10 of the child is appropriate, the department shall ensure that an appointment is obtained for
11 such an assessment within 30 days of the physical examination.~~

12 **3. Medical, dental, behavioral and educational assessment.** The department shall
13 obtain relevant records and ensure that a child ordered into its custody is referred for a
14 comprehensive medical, dental, behavioral and educational assessment meeting the
15 standards of a national academy of pediatrics within 30 days after the department's
16 custody of the child commences.

17 **SUMMARY**

18 Current law regarding the physical examination and psychological assessment of
19 children entering state custody requires the physical examination of a child within 10
20 working days after the child enters into the custody of the Department of Health and
21 Human Services and a psychological assessment within 30 days of the examination if an
22 assessment is determined appropriate by the doctor or nurse practitioner performing the
23 physical examination. This bill shortens the time requirement for the physical
24 examination to 3 working days and replaces the language regarding the psychological
25 examination with language requiring a comprehensive medical, dental, behavioral and
26 educational assessment meeting the standards of a national academy of pediatrics within
27 30 days after the department's custody of the child commences.