

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 328

H.P. 253

House of Representatives, January 24, 2019

An Act To Institute Safe Children Court Team Programs

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MADIGAN of Waterville.
Cosponsored by Senator BELLOWS of Kennebec and
Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, GATTINE of Westbrook, MEYER of Eliot, Senator:
CHIPMAN of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 4 MRSA c. 8-C** is enacted to read:

3 **CHAPTER 8-C**

4 **SAFE CHILDREN COURT TEAM PROGRAMS**

5 **§441. Establishment**

6 **1. Programs.** The Judicial Department may establish safe children court team
7 programs in the Superior Courts and District Courts and may adopt administrative orders
8 and court rules to govern the practice, procedure and administration of these programs.

9 **2. Purpose.** The purpose of the safe children court team programs established under
10 subsection 1 is to use community knowledge to find local solutions that meet the
11 developmental needs of children who enter into the child protection system, especially
12 the developmental needs of children in foster care.

13 **3. Collaboration.** The following shall collaborate with and, to the extent possible,
14 provide financial assistance to the Judicial Department in establishing and maintaining
15 safe children court team programs established under subsection 1:

16 A. District attorneys, the Department of the Attorney General and statewide
17 organizations representing prosecutors;

18 B. Attorneys who represent parents in child protection proceedings, including
19 statewide organizations representing such attorneys;

20 C. The Department of Health and Human Services;

21 D. The Department of Public Safety;

22 E. The Department of Education; and

23 F. Local service agencies.

24 **§442. Programs**

25 **1. Coordinator of Safe Children Court Team Programs.** The Judicial
26 Department shall employ a Coordinator of Safe Children Court Team Programs. The
27 Coordinator of Safe Children Court Team Programs shall help the Judicial Department
28 establish, staff, coordinate, operate and evaluate safe children court team programs
29 established under this chapter.

30 **2. Core components.** The core components of the safe children court team
31 programs established under this chapter include the following:

32 A. Judicial leadership in focusing on achieving timely, permanent resolution of child
33 placement issues and resolving the issues that brought families into the system;

34 B. A development specialist with education and expertise in developmental
35 psychology;

