

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 1409

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H.P. 931

House of Representatives, April 1, 2025

### An Act Regarding the Rights of Foster Parents

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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 "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative GRIFFIN of Levant.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BAGSHAW of Windham, CIMINO of Bridgton, COLLINS of Sidney, JAVNER of Chester.

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

**Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4005-G, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 411, §11, is amended to read:

**1. Kinship preference.** Except as provided in subsections 3, 5 ~~and~~ 6 ~~and~~ 7, in the residential placement of a child, the department shall give preference to an adult relative over a nonrelated caregiver when determining placement for a child, as long as the adult relative meets all relevant state child protection standards.

**Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4005-G, sub-§7 is enacted to read:**

**7. Foster parent rights.** The department is required to consider a foster parent who is not a relative and who has had a child placed in that foster parent's home for a continuous period of one year or more to have the same rights as an adult relative of the child.

## SUMMARY

This bill establishes that a foster parent who has had a child in that foster parent's home for a continuous period of one year or more has the same rights as an adult relative of the child.