

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
Judiciary

BILL SUMMARY



JULY, 1983

Prepared by:

John R. Selser, Legislative Counsel
and
Martha E. Freeman, Legislative Counsel
Judiciary Committee

Office of Legislative Assistants
State House, Station 13 Augusta, Maine 04333
(207) 289-2486

1035

AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE ADOPTION
ASSISTANCE LAW

Hayden

PL 1983, c. 312

SUMMARY: Amends a section of the law which provides that the Department of Human Services may subsidize the adoption of children in its care and custody who are physically, mentally, or emotionally handicapped, or who may not be adopted because of their age, race, sibling relationship, or physical health. current law states that the amount of this adoption assistance may vary depending on the resources of the parents. This change replaces the reference to "resources" with a reference to the "circumstances" of the parents so as to coincide with related federal law.

1065

AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE PROCEEDINGS
OF NONPROFIT HOSPITALS TO BE OPEN
TO THE PUBLIC

Manning

LV/WD

SUMMARY: Sought to require proceedings of boards of directors or other governing bodies of nonprofit hospitals to be open to the public to the same extent as other public proceedings under the Freedom of Access Law.

1084

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ADULT PROTEC-
TIVE SERVICES ACT

Allen

PL 1983, c. 313

SUMMARY: Amends the Adult Protective Services Act by removing "sexual abuse or exploitation" from the definition of "neglect" and placing this phrase in the definition of "abuse" where it more appropriately belongs.

1085

AN ACT TO AMEND THE CHILD AND
FAMILY SERVICES AND CHILD PRO-
TECTION LAW

Nelson

PL 1983, c. 354

SUMMARY: Amends the Child and Family Services and Child Protection Act as follows: To allow optional disclosure of information contained in child protective records to child placing agencies; to include emergency medical technicians, dental hygienists, dental assistants, and guidance counselors as mandatory reporters of child abuse; to abrogate the confidentiality of information contained in employee records for purposes of reporting, complying with an investigation or testifying under this Act; to prevent employment discrimination against any person complying in good faith with the reporting requirements of this Act; to provide that when an agency has contracted with the department to provide short-term emergency services to a child, it may notify the parents that short-term emergency services are being provided by the agency; and to expand placement alternatives for children in foster care.