

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 606

S. P. 246

In Senate, February 7, 1967

Referred to Committee on Judiciary. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

JERROLD B. SPEERS, Secretary

Presented by Senator Snow of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Relating to Religious Faith of Foster and Adoptive Homes.

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

R. S., T. 22, § 3795, repealed and replaced. Section 3795 of Title 22 of the Revised Statutes is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

§ 3795. Religious faith of parents

Any child who shall come in any way under the inspection or supervision of the department or under this chapter shall, when placed for foster care or adoption in a family, be placed in a family of the same religious faith as that requested in writing by the parents or surviving parent of such child, where a suitable family of such faith can be found willing to take such child. If such family cannot be found or if no request is made by the parent or parents, then such child shall be placed in a family or institution as may be determined by the department or agency involved to be in the best interest of the child.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

This bill is based on recommendations made by an advisory committee on adoption of the Bureau of Social Welfare. This committee was composed of representatives of social agencies, the major religious faiths, and the legal profession.

Proper placement of children in foster homes or adoptive homes is sometimes delayed or made more difficult because of statutory restrictions which do not always work in the best interest of children. This bill would enable social agencies, including the Department of Health and Welfare, to act more quickly and decisively in behalf of many children.