

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1243

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S. P. 429

In Senate, March 11, 1971

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

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Dunn of Oxford.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-ONE

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**AN ACT to Establish Stepparents' Responsibility to Support Stepchildren.**

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 19, § 441, sub-§ 1, amended. Subsection 1 of section 441 of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

1. **Child.** "Child" means a son or daughter under the age of ~~21~~ 20 years and a son or daughter of whatever age who is incapacitated from earning a living and without sufficient means, and shall also mean a stepson or stepdaughter who is under the age of 20 years and for whom the natural parent who is married to the stepparent has custody and control.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 19, § 442, amended. Section 442 of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

§ 442. **Man's duty of support**

Every man shall support his wife and his child, including his stepchild; and his parent when in need; provided that a man's obligation to his stepchild shall cease when an annulment or divorce from such stepchild's mother is decreed by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Sec. 3. R. S., T. 19, § 443, amended. Section 443 of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

§ 443. **Woman's duty of support**

Every woman shall support her child, including her stepchild; and her husband and her parent when in need; provided that a woman's obligation to her

stepchild shall cease when an annulment or divorce from such stepchild's father is decreed by a court of competent jurisdiction.

#### FISCAL NOTE

This bill will reduce ADC costs to the State by \$80,000 per month.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The intent of this Act is reflected in the title.