

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1833

S. P. 640

In Senate, June 14, 1971

Reported by Minority from Committee on Judiciary and printed under  
Joint Rules No. 18.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

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STATE OF MAINE

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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, § 4, sub-§ 2, amended. Subsection 2 of section 4 of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 31 of chapter 433 of the public laws of 1969, is amended to read as follows:

2. Child. "Child" means a ~~person~~ son or daughter who has not attained the age of 20 years and shall also mean a stepson or stepdaughter who has not attained the age of 20 years. A stepson or stepdaughter is a child of natural or adoptive parents whose marriage has been terminated by death, divorce, or annulment and whose natural or adoptive parent has been legally married to another spouse. The stepchild-stepparent relationship created by such remarriage of the natural or adoptive parent shall not be dissolved by the termination of such remarriage by death, divorce or annulment.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 19, § 4, sub-§ 4, additional. Section 4 of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 31 of chapter 433 of the public laws of 1969, is amended by adding a new subsection 4 to read as follows:

4. Parent. "Parent" shall be either a natural parent, an adoptive parent or a stepparent. A stepparent means a person who has been legally married to the natural or adoptive mother or father of a child after the marriage of the natural or adoptive parents has been terminated by death, divorce or annulment.

Sec. 3. 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 ~~27~~ 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.

**Sec. 4. 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. **A stepson or stepdaughter is a child of natural or adoptive parents whose marriage has been terminated by death, divorce or annulment, and whose natural or adoptive parent has been legally married to another spouse. The stepchild-stepparent relationship created by such remarriage of the natural or adoptive parent shall not be dissolved by the termination of such remarriage by death, divorce or annulment.**

**Sec. 5. 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. **A stepson or stepdaughter is a child of natural or adoptive parents whose marriage has been terminated by death, divorce or annulment, and whose natural or adoptive parent has been legally married to another spouse. The stepchild-stepparent relationship created by such remarriage of the natural or adoptive parent shall not be dissolved by the termination of such remarriage by death, divorce or annulment.**