

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
107TH LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H. P. 203, L. D. 248, Bill, "AN ACT Relating to Subsidized Adoptions."

Amend said Bill by striking out everything after the amending clause and inserting in place thereof the following:

'CHAPTER 10

ADOPTION SUBSIDY ACT

§541. Authorization

The Department of Health and Welfare is authorized to subsidize the adoption of children in its care or custody who are legally eligible for adoption and who are physically or mentally handicapped, emotionally disturbed or who by virtue of age or sibling relationship otherwise may not be adopted. The Department of Health and Welfare is authorized to use funds for this purpose which are appropriated for child welfare services.

The amount of the subsidy may vary depending upon the resources of the adoptive parents, the special needs of the child as well as the availability of other resources but may not exceed the cost of caring for the child if the child were to remain in the care or custody of the Department of Health and Welfare. The duration of the subsidy may continue until the cessation of legal parental responsibility.

§542. Eligibility and terms

Foster parents interested in adopting an eligible child in their care and any other persons interested in adopting may apply for a subsidy. All applicants for adoption subsidy must meet

agency standards for adoption with the exception of financial ability. The subsidy may be for special services only, for a limited period, for a long term or for a combination thereof. The type of adoption subsidy may vary depending on the special needs of the child.

§543. Administration

A written agreement between the family entering into subsidized adoption and the Department of Health and Welfare must precede the final decree of adoption. In case of subsidies that continue for more than one year, there shall be an annual redetermination of the need for subsidy. If the adopting family moves from the original jurisdiction to another state, such family, if otherwise eligible, shall continue to receive the subsidy.

§544. Promulgation of rules and regulations

The Department of Health and Welfare shall establish rules and regulations for the subsidized adoption program consistent with this chapter and shall promulgate such rules and regulations within 90 days of its enactment.'

Statement of Fact

This amendment clarifies the authorization for and funding of a subsidized adoption program within the Department of Health and Welfare.

Reported by the Committee on Judiciary.

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

4/1/75

(Filing No. H-109)