

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 138, L.D. 442, Bill, "AN ACT to Authorize the Governor's Committee on Children and Youth to Accept and Administer Certain Available Funds."

Amend said Bill by striking out all of the title and insert in place thereof the following: 'AN ACT to Reactivate the Governor's Committee on Children and Youth.'

Further amend said Bill by inserting before the enacting clause the following:

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Committee on Children and Youth is established under statutory authority which will soon cease unless continued by legislative act; and

Whereas, continuation of the Committee on Children and Youth is vitally necessary in order that the problems of Maine's children and youth be studied and resolved; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, '

Further amend said Bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the following:

'Sec. 1. Governor's Committee on Children and Youth, reactivated.

The Governor shall appoint a committee of

15 representative citizens, 5 of whom shall be youths. The Governor shall designate the chairman.

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Sec. 2. Duties of the committee. The Governor's Committee on Children and Youth may:

1. Promote effective programs of education, health, recreation, welfare, public safety and correctional services for children and youth;

2. Conduct continuing programs of public information to educate the public as to problems of children and youth using such means, among others, as promotion of needed legislation and appropriations and strengthening of public administration and personnel resources;

3. Assist and encourage governmental and private agencies and citizen groups to coordinate their efforts on behalf of children and youth;

4. Cooperate with the Federal Government and with the governments of other states and cities and programs relating to children and youth;

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5. Conduct programs of research as to the needs of children and youth in order to facilitate more comprehensive and better related social planning and action;

6. Cooperate with those state departments and commissions which are concerned with the needs of and services to children and youth by making the fullest possible use of the experience and resources of those departments;

7. Provide a means for youth to express themselves and present their opinions to the Maine legislative body;

8. Provide leadership and consultant service to area committees on children and youth in the development of area programs;

9. ~~k~~ Serve as a child advocate for any child in the State, who, because of his immaturity, legal disability, dependency, lack of parental support or lack of status in the community, needs a dedicated champion for the protection of his liberty or health when he is deprived of his home, schooling, medical care, property, rights, entitlements or benefits or is subjected to involuntary treatment that may be detrimental to his general welfare; and

10. Furnish the Governor and the Legislature a biennial report.

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Sec. 3. Time of meetings and expenses. The committee shall meet at the place designated by and at the call of the chairman not less than 5 times each biennium. The members of the committee or authorized subcommittees shall be paid necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Such expenses shall be governed by the rules and regulations covering all state departments.

Sec. 4. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund the sum of \$3,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1976 and \$3,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1977 to carry out the purposes of this Act.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect on July 1, 1975.'

Statement of Fact

This amendment continues the statutory authority for the Governor's Committee on Children and Youth, and changes the membership of the committee.

Reported by the Committee on State Government.  
Reproduced and distributed pursuant to Senate Rule 11-A.  
May 22, 1975. (Filing No. S-189).