

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 342

H. P. 272

House of Representatives, February 9, 1977

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Howe of South Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Delete Certain Religious Requirements for Adoption Proceedings.

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

22 MRSA § 3795, as repealed and replaced by PL 1967, c. 123, is repealed.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to remove the requirement that a child under the supervision of the Department of Human Services, who is placed for foster care or adoption, be placed with a family of the same religious faith as that requested by the natural parents of the child.

While religious factors may still be considered in making a decision on where to place a child, this bill makes the consideration of such factors no longer mandatory.

Some families have been prevented from adopting or providing foster care for children merely on the basis that their religious beliefs were different from those of the child's natural parents. This bill will allow greater freedom in placing children with capable families where the religions of the adoptive parents are different from the religions of the natural parents.