

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 879

H. P. 697

House of Representatives, March 9, 1977

On Motion of Mr. Goodwin of South Berwick referred to the Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Gill of South Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Concerning Family Crisis Service Provided by Human Services.

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA § 3704 is enacted to read:

§ 3704. Role of department

The department may provide services to children and their parents and siblings for the purpose of preventing, remedying or solving the development and growth of problems which may ultimately result in seriously jeopardizing the health, welfare or morals of such child, or could lead to the delinquency of such child. Nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing any public official, agent or representative, in carrying out this section, to take charge of any child over the objection of either the father or the mother of such child, or of the person standing in loco parentis to such child, except pursuant to a proper court order.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA § 3705 is enacted to read:

§ 3705. Family crisis workers

In order to carry out the objectives of section 3704, the department is authorized to establish additional lines to be designated "family crisis workers" and attached to the child protective care units of the department.

The purpose of this bill is to direct the Department of Human Services to expand their services to include not only children already in jeopardy but also families in crisis or impending crisis which may require social intervention for purposes of providing services to protect children whose health,

welfare or morals may be endangered if the crisis is left unsolved. This bill authorizes the Commissioner of Human Services to designate personnel as "family crisis workers" in each of the regions of the department.

Funds to cover the personnel in this bill have been included in the departmental appropriation included in LD No. 95 and/or Title XX State Plan for Social Services.