

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
108TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

(Filing No. H-192)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " A " to H.P. 702, L.D. 883, Bill,  
"AN ACT Authorizing Use of Subpoena Powers to Enforce Support  
Obligations."

Amend the Bill by striking out everything after the  
enacting clause and inserting in its place the following:

'19 MRSA §494-A is enacted to read:

§494-A. Subpoena powers

In carrying out any of the provisions of this subchapter,  
the Department of Human Services, through a request to the  
Attorney General or to an assistant attorney general assigned  
to the department, upon its own motion or upon the request  
of any party, shall have the power to subpoena witnesses,  
compel their attendance and require the production of any  
papers, books, records or documents which are relevant to  
determining the support obligation and the responsible parent's  
ability to pay or earn.

Subpoenas shall be served in accordance with the Maine  
Rules of Civil Procedure. Costs for subpoenas shall be borne  
by the moving party.

Statement of Fact

This bill, as amended, would empower the staff of the  
Department of Human Services, who are charged with investigating  
the ability of responsible parents to support their children,  
to use subpoenas to secure information about the absent parent's  
resources in those situations where information can be released

only under subpoena, i.e., bank records, and where an employer may refuse to supply information concerning the parent's wages. Subpoenas would also be available to the absent parents or their counsel.

Reported by the Committee on Judiciary.

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