

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1211

H. P. 1008

House of Representatives, March 23, 1977

On Motion of Mr. Curran of South Portland referred to the Committee on State Government. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Curran of South Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

**AN ACT Establishing a Single Unit Within State Government to Administer
Human Services to Children.**

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA Pt. 18 is enacted to read:

PART 18

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

CHAPTER 381

SINGLE STATE AGENCY

§ 7041. Single state agency for children's services

1. Agency created. To maximize the human capabilities of children of the State of Maine, there is created and established a single state agency for children's services to consist of a director, and such children's services as heretofore were created and established within either the Department of Human Services or the Department of Mental Health and Corrections. Subject to future enactments of law, this single state agency is intended to be located within either the Department of Mental Health and Corrections or the Department of Human Services and shall become the sole agency of State Government responsible for administration of children's services, subject to the direction of the commissioner of the department within which the agency will be permanently located.

2. Agency function. It is the intent of this Part that the single state agency for children's services shall function as a central office administrative

unit of the department within which it will be permanently located; and that powers, duties, responsibilities and authority for administering children's services shall be vested in the single state agency.

3. **Administration.** The single state agency shall be administered by a director, who shall be appointed subject to the Personnel Law, on an interim basis jointly by the commissioners of Human Services and Mental Health and Corrections, and permanently by the commissioner of the department within which the single state agency will be permanently located, and with the advice and consultation of the Maine Human Services Council, and with the advice and consent of the Governor. The director shall be a person qualified by training and experience in the direction of human services or children's programs. He shall serve full time in a position that is separate from and not integrated in any way with another position in State Government. He shall not concurrently hold another title and shall perform duties solely germane to the powers and duties pursuant to this Part. The director shall be immediately and fully responsible on an interim basis to both the commissioners of Mental Health and Corrections and Human Services, and shall not be partially or indirectly responsible to any other official of either department.

Sec. 2. Organization. The Joint Standing Committee on State Government, with the assistance of the director, and the Departments of Human Services and Mental Health and Corrections, shall prepare a plan of organization and powers and duties of the single state agency as may be necessary to carry out efficiently the work of a single state agency for children's services. The committee, with the assistance of the director, and the Departments of Mental Health and Corrections and Human Services, shall prepare legislation to be presented to the second regular session of the 108th Legislature to amend, repeal, and rearrange statutes to reflect this single state agency's powers, responsibilities and organization.

The Joint Standing Committee on State Government may recommend legislation for the transfer from or to another state department such functions as would appear to properly belong to another department or to the single state agency for children's services.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to establish a single unit within State Government to administer human services to children.