

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1353

H. P. 1086

House of Representatives, March 20, 1979

Speaker laid before the House and on Motion of Mrs. Prescott of Hampden, referred to the Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Nelson of Portland.

Cosponsors: Ms. Lund of Augusta and Mrs. Payne of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT Concerning Interdepartmental Coordination of Services to Children and Families.

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

22 MRSA c. 1051-B is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 1051-B

**INTERDEPARTMENTAL
COORDINATION OF SERVICES TO
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

§ 3721. Purpose

It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage the coordination of policies and programs for Maine children and families.

§ 3722. Committee established

The Interdepartmental Coordination of Services to Children and Families Committee is established and shall be known as the "committee."

§ 3723. Membership

The committee shall be composed of 12 members as follows:

1. Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services and employees. The Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services and 3 persons employed by the department designated by the commissioner;

2. Commissioner of Human Services and employees. The Commissioner of Human Services and 3 persons employed by the department designated by the commissioner; and

3. Commissioner of Mental Health and Corrections and employees. The Commissioner of Mental Health and Corrections and 3 persons employed by the department designated by the commissioner.

The 3 persons designated by each commissioner shall be employees with the highest level responsibilities and authority for directing the allocation of resources or establishment of policies for serving children and families.

§ 3724. Goals of the committee

The goals of the committee shall be:

1. Coordinated services. To encourage a statewide system of coordinated services which are realistically responsive to the current needs of children and families and which are delivered by a partnership of public, private and nonprofit state level and community based agencies;

2. Evaluation of resource allocation. To evaluate on a continuing basis the allocation of resources in order to ensure the availability of quality services delivered in a coordinated and efficient manner that is consistent with the needs of children and families; and

3. Policy development. To continue the development of a comprehensive and coordinated approach to initiation and revision of policy affecting services to children and families.

§ 3725. Meetings

The committee shall meet on a regular basis.

§ 3726. Chairperson

The committee shall select a chairperson from among the 3 commissioners and the chairperson shall serve for a term established by the committee.

§ 3727. Subcommittees

The committee is authorized to appoint subcommittees to carry out its work.

§ 3728. Cooperative efforts

The committee shall cooperate with the Maine Human Services Council and the Maine Criminal Justice Planning and Assistance Agency by including representatives of these 2 groups in a nonvoting capacity in all committee work.

STATEMENT OF FACT

In the closing days of the 2nd session of the 108th Legislature the Departments of Human Services, Mental Health and Corrections, and Educational and Cultural Services were requested to develop a coordinated policy on services to children and families. On January 27, 1978, the Commissioners of Human Services, Mental Health and Corrections, and Educational and Cultural Services presented to the Governor and the 108th Legislature a report entitled Coordinating Services for Children and Families. The report contained a series of recommendations, some of which required legislative action. The commissioners also agreed to establish an interdepartmental committee to coordinate services for children and families between the 3 departments. This committee has met for the past year and has taken significant steps towards resolving long-standing problems of duplication and gaps in services. This bill would mandate the Commissioners of Human Services, Mental Health and Corrections, and Educational and Cultural Services to serve on an interdepartmental team to continue the efforts at coordination of children and family services and review policies that have already begun and to report to the Legislature on an annual basis regarding their progress.