

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1554

STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (Filing No. H-567)
109TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1254, L.D. 1554, Bill,
"AN ACT to Coordinate, Effectively Utilize and Comprehensively
Plan the Service Needs of Maine's Children and Families by
Establishing a Maine Council of Families and Children, County
Councils on Families and Children and a State Office for
Children and Families."

Amend the Bill by striking out all of the title and
inserting in its place the following:

'AN ACT to Establish a Maine Council on Families and Children,
County Councils for Families and Children and a State
Office for Children and Families.'

Further amend the Bill in section 3 by striking out
all of that part designated "§8501." and inserting in its
place the following:

'§8501. Declaration of purpose

The intent of this Act is to improve the effectiveness
and the coordination of publicly supported services to
Maine's children and families by recognizing the efficacy
of providing preventive, supportive, supplemental and substitute
services to children and families throughout the State.
In addition to improving the access to public policy makers
by parents, youth and professionals concerned with the well-
being of children, this Act will increase the accountability,
coordination and monitoring of diverse programs and services

designed to serve children and families.'

Further amend the Bill in section 3 by striking out all of the first underlined paragraph of that part designated "§8502." and inserting inserting in place thereof the following:

'It is declared that, in order to supply services more fully to children and families through this Act, the following objectives will be pursued:'

Further amend the Bill in section 3 by striking out all of subsections 3, 4 and 5 of that part designated "§8502." and inserting in their place the following:

'3. Monitoring. Establish a system of monitoring all public and regulated services, programs and policies to assure compliance with federal and state intent;

4. Monitoring; development. Establish a monitoring system to assure the development of a state system of interrelated and coordinated services;

5. Evaluate resources. Evaluate the present allocation of resources for children's and family services to insure more economical and efficient use of available resources;'

Further amend the Bill in section 3 by striking out all of the first underlined paragraph of that part designated "§8511." and inserting in its place the following:

'There is created the Office for Children and Families within the Office of the Governor. The office shall, in order to promote the well-being of the children and families of Maine, monitor, encourage and serve as a principal policy and planning vehicle for publicly supported or regulated

services, or both, for children and families and shall endeavor to increase the efficiency of service delivery and insure the effectiveness of programs and services to children and families.'

Further amend the Bill in section 3 by striking out all of the last underlined paragraph of that part designated "§8511." and inserting in its place the following:

'The office shall also report on its activities to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Institutional Services.'

Further amend the Bill in section 3 by striking out all of those sections designated "§8512." and "§8513." and inserting in their place the following:

'§8512. Powers and duties

1. Duties. The office shall have the power and duties to:
 - A. Monitor state programs and policies which are directed at children, children's services and family services to assure compliance with state and federal statutory and regulatory intent;
 - B. Promote coordination of state service plans and programs to assure their compatibility with state-supported children's and family services in order to maximize utilization of public funds and to increase the range of services available to children;

C. Review and comment upon pertinent state plans developed by the various departments of the State which relate to children's and family services. These plans shall be submitted to the office 30 days before they are required to be submitted elsewhere; if there is no other submission requirement, the plans may be submitted to the office 30 days before they are to go into effect;

D. Design, develop and annually review a comprehensive state child and family services plan for the efficient and coordinated delivery of services to children and families, which shall:

(1) Include an assessment of the health, educational, economic and social needs of children and families in the State;

(2) Inventory all programs providing services to children and their families;

(3) Be coordinated with existing state plans; and

(4) Be submitted to the Governor and Legislature annually;

E. Monitor and promote the coordination of state responses to proposed federal statutes;

F. Serve as a patron for children and families by articulating their needs, disseminating information to the public regarding services and the needs of Maine children and families and promoting the development of programs and services to all children and families;

G. Provide ongoing study and analysis of services and programs for children and families;

H. Provide the necessary assistance and staff for conduct-

ing, biennially, a Blaine House Conference on Children and Families;

I. Provide staff assistance to the Maine Council on Children and Families and the County Councils for Children and Families;

J. Index and compile all state laws and regulations pertinent to state-established, funded or supported children and family services;

K. Evaluate all existing and proposed plans and programs affecting services to children and their families for conformance to the goals, policies and priorities established in the State's comprehensive child and family care service plan; and

L. Make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature for needed statutory reforms in the area of services to children and families.

Consistent with the purposes of this Act, the Office for Children and Families, on Children and Families the Maine Council and the county councils for children and Families may review and comment on individual state-funded contracts relating to children and family services.
§8513. State agencies to cooperate

State agencies proposing to establish programs related to the objectives of this Act shall consult with the Office for Children and Families prior to the establishment of these services. Provisions in this Act are not intended to supersede any other statutes in existence governing the operations of state agencies.'

Further amend the Bill in section 3 by striking out all of paragraph A of subsection 1 of that part designated "§8525." and inserting in place thereof the following:

'A. Consult with, assist and provide direction to the Office for Children and Families in the task of improving the quality of life of Maine's children and families;'

Further amend the Bill in section 3 by striking out all of the first underlined paragraph of that part designated "§8532." and inserting in its place the following:

'Members of each county council shall be residents of the county who have an unselfish and demonstrated interest in children and families and a knowledge of the problems of children and families.'

Further amend the Bill in section 3 by striking out all of the 6th paragraph of that part designated "§8532." and inserting in its place the following:

'Any vacancy in the county council shall not affect its powers. Ten members of the county council shall constitute and a quorum/ no business shall take place without a quorum.'

Further amend the Bill in section 3 by striking out all of paragraph D of subsection 1 of that part designated "§8534." and inserting in its place the following:

'D. Submit recommendations concerning children's and family services to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Institutional Services, Office for Children and Families, county commissioners and other appropriate government bodies;'

Further amend the Bill by striking out all of chapter 1685 of section 3 which includes all of designated sections "\$8535." to "\$8540."

Further amend the Bill by striking out all of section 4 and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 4. Appropriation. The following funds shall be appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

1980-81

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Office for Children and Families

Positions	(6)
Personal Services	\$100,000'

Statement of Fact

The amendment removes some descriptive language in the bill, makes the office a reviewing, rather than a coordinating and supervising entity and removes the last chapter, since the office is already placed in the statutes for sunset review.

The appropriation is reduced because funds will be available from the Department of Mental Health and Corrections for the first year and for part of the costs during the 2nd year of the biennium.