

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1313

H. P. 1108

House of Representatives, March 16, 1981

Referred to the Committee on Judiciary. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Benoit of South Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT Concerning Access by Adopted Children to Biological Family Medical Files.

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

Sec. 1. 19 MRSA § 533, as last amended by PL 1979, c. 733, § 11, is further amended by adding after the first sentence a new sentence to read:

The department shall, either through its own workers or through a licensed adoption agency, obtain whatever medical or genetic information on the child and the parents that is available and place this information in the court records.

Sec. 2. 19 MRSA § 534 is amended by adding after the first paragraph a new paragraph to read:

Any medical or genetic information in the court records relating to an adoption shall be made available to the adopted child or his heirs on petition of the court.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill requires the collection of medical, genetic or other health-related information on the child and his biological parents as part of the adoption proceedings. It also requires that this information be made available to the adopted child or his heirs on petition.

Family medical information is of great value and significance to adoptees, because so many diseases or problems are genetically transmitted.

This bill will allow adoptees the opportunity to seek treatment, if necessary, or to plan for their own health and that of their offsprings.