MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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	FIRST REGULAR S	SESSION
ONE HUND	RED AND ELEVEN	TH LEGISLATURE
Legislative Documen	t	No. 1307
H.P. 999	House o	of Representatives, March 24, 1983
Referred to the Co ordered printed.	mmittee on Judiciary.	. Sent up for concurrence and
		EDWIN H. PERT, Clerl
Presented by Represent	ative Small of Bath.	
	STATE OF MA	INE
_		-
	N THE YEAR OF (EN HUNDRED AND	
AN AC	T Concerning Gr	=
	VISICACION RIG	,ncs.
Be it enacted by follows:	the People of	the State of Maine as
19 MRSA §222	is enacted to	read:
§222. Grandpare	nts' visitation	n rights
Whenever an	y of the fol	llowing situations have
		rnal grandparents of a
minor child or Court for visita		y petition the District
1. Divorce. dren are divorce		of the child or chil-
2. Dissolut	ion of marric	ge. A petition for the
		s been filed by one of
the parents of t		

1		3. Death.		1.	The par		ent of the		child or		children		
2	has	died	and	the	dece	ased	pai	cent	is	the	chilo	of	the
3	pet:	ition	ing q	grand	dpare	nts;	or						

 4. Foster care. The child or children have been placed in a foster home.

The court may grant reasonable visitation rights to the grandparents only if the visitation is in the best interests of the child or children and may issue all necessary orders to enforce those visitation rights.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to allow the relationship between grandparent and grandchild to continue after divorce or death of the child's parent. This bill asks the court to consider the emotional benefits of allowing the grandchild to keep in contact with his grandparents in deciding the best interests of the child.

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