

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1253

7 S.P. 450

In Senate, April 4, 1985

8 Referred to the Committee on Human Resources. Sent down for
9 concurrence and ordered printed.

10 JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Maybury of Penobscot.

Cosponsored by Representative Carroll of Gray, Senator Bustin of
11 Kennebec and Representative Nelson of Portland.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE
16

17 AN ACT to Establish a Procedure to Appoint
18 Advocates for Foster Children.
19

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

22 22 MRSA c. 1071, sub-c. IX is enacted to read:

23 SUBCHAPTER IX

24 FOSTER CHILDREN'S ADVOCATES

25 §4081. Petition by foster parent

26 1. Petition; appointment. A foster parent of
27 any child placed in foster care may petition the Pro-
28 bate Court for the appointment as an advocate for
29 that child in any judicial proceedings or in any pro-
30 ceedings or actions of any state department or agency
31 affecting the well-being of the child. The court
32 shall consider the petition and if the court finds
33 that it would be in the best interests of the child,

1 it may appoint the foster parent as an advocate for
2 the child.

3 2. Participation in proceedings. Any person ap-
4 pointed as an advocate for a foster child pursuant to
5 this section shall have a right to participate in and
6 provide information concerning any of the following
7 proceedings:

8 A. Any court proceeding directly involving the
9 placement, custody or adoption of the foster
10 child, termination of parental rights, removal of
11 the child from foster care or any treatment of
12 the child;

13 B. Any proceeding or action undertaken by a
14 state department or agency concerning the place-
15 ment, custody or adoption of the foster child,
16 termination of parental rights, removal of the
17 child from foster care or any treatment of the
18 child; or

19 C. Any other proceeding or action directly af-
20 fecting the well-being of the foster child.

21 STATEMENT OF FACT

22 The purpose of this bill is to provide a proce-
23 dure whereby foster parents may petition the Probate
24 Court to appoint them as advocates for foster chil-
25 dren.

26 0520031885