

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1342
(Filing No. H-216)

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
112TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 936, L.D. 1342, "Resolve, Relating to the Development of an Interdepartmental Plan to Identify Needed Resources for a Statewide Network of Out-of-home Placements and Aftercare, Follow-up and Transitional Services."

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Amend the resolve in the 9th paragraph after the title by striking out the following: "now, therefore, be it" and inserting in its place the following: 'and'

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Further amend the resolve by inserting after the 9th paragraph the following:

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'Whereas, the need for behavior stabilization or secure treatment services has been identified by every major report on children's services over the past 10 years, and most recently in the report of the Maine Commission to Examine the Availability, Quality and Delivery of Services Provided to Children with Special Needs; and

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Whereas, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Educational and Cultural Services, Department of Human Services and the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation have already undertaken an extensive effort to study and develop behavior stabilization or secure treatment services for adolescents in need. An adolescent in need is defined as an adolescent who:

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1. Currently manifests an emotional disorder identified by a mental health professional; and

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2. Has persistently and repetitively exhibited behavior that is out of control, self destructive and violent; and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 936, L.D. 1342

1 Whereas, complex issues have been identified in
2 the areas of involuntary commitment, adolescents
3 rights, due process, admissions restrictions and a
4 precise definition of the target population to meet
5 legal criteria; and'

6 Further amend the resolve by inserting before the
7 2nd paragraph before the emergency clause the follow-
8 ing:

9 'Adolescents in need. Resolved: That the interde-
10 partmental committee continue the efforts of the de-
11 partments to develop a plan to address the needs of
12 the adolescent in need population; to research legal
13 issues relating to involuntary commitment and the
14 rights of adolescents to refuse treatment versus the
15 rights of the community to be protected and to make
16 recommendations for resolution of those issues in the
17 context of developing this service; to explore alter-
18 native service and other out-of-home placement op-
19 tions, including a review of the existing system's
20 capacity to serve the population under study as well
21 as the feasibility of a new treatment resource; and
22 to collect more precise data on the target population
23 by continuing current efforts to develop and imple-
24 ment an interdepartmental tracking system so as to
25 refine the definition of adolescent in need.

26 Further amend the resolve in the 2nd paragraph
27 before the emergency clause in the 4th line (page 3,
28 line 25 in L.D.) by inserting before the word "sub-
29 mit" the following word 'jointly' and in the 4th line
30 (page 3, line 25 in L.D.) by inserting after the
31 words "written report" the following: 'of its find-
32 ings, together with any recommended legislation,'

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 936, L.D. 1342

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STATEMENT OF FACT

2 This amendment adds to the resolve the subject
3 matter of behavior stabilization for adolescents, the
4 legal issues relating to involuntary committment, al-
5 ternative service options and a refined system to
6 keep track of adolescents being served by several de-
7 partments.

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