

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 (EMERGENCY)  
2 FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
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4 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
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6 Legislative Document

No. 1464

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8 H.P. 1015

House of Representatives, May 6, 1985

9 Referred to the Committee on Human Resources. Sent up for  
10 concurrence and ordered printed. Ordered sent forthwith.

11 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Brodeur of Auburn.

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12  
13 STATE OF MAINE  
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15 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
16 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE  
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18 AN ACT to Create a Commission to Study the  
19 Availability and Coordination of  
20 Resources and Training for Child Abuse  
21 and Neglect Prevention and Treatment  
22 in Maine.  
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24 Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legis-  
25 lature do not become effective until 90 days after  
26 adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

27 Whereas, there has been a dramatic increase in  
28 the number of reported cases of child abuse and ne-  
29 glect; and

30 Whereas, that increase has strained the legal,  
31 administrative and human resources of this State; and

32 Whereas, the response to that increase will re-  
33 sult in administrative and legal action which will  
34 further burden the existing resources for child abuse  
35 and neglect; and

1           Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature,  
2 these facts create an emergency within the meaning of  
3 the Constitution of Maine and require the following  
4 legislation as immediately necessary for the preser-  
5 vation of the public peace, health and safety; now,  
6 therefore,

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

9           **Sec. 1. Commission, duties.** The Child Abuse and  
10 Neglect Resource Development Commission shall be con-  
11 stituted and appointed to study the need for child  
12 abuse and neglect resources and to develop a plan to  
13 provide adequate resources and a process to implement  
14 that plan. The commission shall investigate and eval-  
15 uate the current resources available to individuals  
16 and agencies and organizations in the State which  
17 deal with the problems associated with child abuse  
18 and neglect. The study shall include, but need not be  
19 limited to:

20           1. **Training.** Current training and training mate-  
21 rials available to mandated reporters of child abuse  
22 and neglect, including, but not limited to, govern-  
23 mental, quasi-governmental, community and private  
24 agencies and others, both professional and  
25 nonprofessional, involved in child abuse and neglect,  
26 including judicial, law enforcement and educational  
27 agencies. This shall include in-house and  
28 institution-free training;

29           2. **Consultation.** Consultative services available  
30 for individuals and agencies involved in child abuse  
31 and neglect;

32           3. **Library resources.** Library and other educa-  
33 tional or service-oriented resources, including the  
34 quantity, quality and availability of those re-  
35 sources; and

36           4. **Services.** Other services or resources availa-  
37 ble to agencies or individuals or which should be  
38 available, including the availability of scholarships  
39 for the study of child abuse and neglect or for child  
40 abuse and neglect training.

1           The report shall evaluate the need for and the  
2 adequacy and availability of the resources available  
3 for the prevention and treatment of child abuse and  
4 neglect and for intervention in child abuse and ne-  
5 glect situations. The report shall present a plan for  
6 a comprehensive and coordinated resource development  
7 program for the State.

8           **Sec. 2. Membership.** The commission shall be com-  
9 posed of 9 members as follows: Three members of the  
10 Legislature, 2 of whom shall be from the Joint Stand-  
11 ing Committee on Human Resources and one from the  
12 Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Finan-  
13 cial Affairs, one appointed by the President of the  
14 Senate and 2 appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
15 Representatives; the Commissioner of Corrections, or  
16 his designee; the Commissioner of Educational and  
17 Cultural Services, or his designee; the Commissioner  
18 of Human Resources, or his designee; the Commissioner  
19 of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, or his des-  
20 ignee; a district attorney, appointed by the Govern-  
21 nor; and a member of the Board of Trustees of the  
22 University of Maine, or his designee, appointed by  
23 the board. In addition, the Chief Justice of the Su-  
24 preme Judicial Court is encouraged to appoint 2 jus-  
25 tices or judges to act as consultants to the commis-  
26 sion. The members shall be appointed in a timely man-  
27 ner and the commission shall hold an organizational  
28 meeting at the call of the chairman of the Legisla-  
29 tive Council within 60 days after the effective date  
30 of this Act. At this meeting, the commission shall  
31 elect a chairman and a vice-chairman.

32           **Sec. 3. Reports.** The commission shall present  
33 its findings, together with any recommended legisla-  
34 tion or administrative recommendations, to the Second  
35 Regular Session of the 112th Legislature by November  
36 1, 1985.

37           **Sec. 4. Assistance.** The Legislative Council  
38 shall provide for staff assistance to the commission  
39 in carrying out its duties.

40           **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited  
41 in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when ap-  
42 proved.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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This bill provides for a commission to assess the current resources, including training, consultative, library and other resources, available to people who must deal with the problems of child abuse and neglect. The commission will propose a comprehensive, coordinated program to develop adequate resources in this area.

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