

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 (After Deadline)
2 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
3

4 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
5

6 Legislative Document

No. 1633

8 S.P. 621

In Senate, May 29, 1985

9 Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council
10 pursuant to Joint Rule 27.

11 Referred to the Committee on Human Resources. Sent down for
concurrence and ordered printed. Ordered sent forthwith.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

12 Presented by Senator Andrews of Cumberland.

13 STATE OF MAINE
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15 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
16 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE
17

18 AN ACT Concerning Child Abuse.
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20 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as
21 follows:

22 Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4018 is enacted to read:

23 §4018. Instruction

24 The department shall be responsible for an in-
25 structional program including refresher training for
26 human services caseworkers. This program shall in-
27 clude, but need not be limited to:

28 1. Recognizing child abuse; neglect. Techniques
29 for recognizing child abuse and neglect;

30 2. Reporting requirements and procedures. Re-
31 porting requirements and procedures pursuant to this
32 subchapter; and

1 3. Dealing with abuse victim and family. Tech-
2 niques on how to deal with the child abuse victim and
3 family.

4 **Sec. 2. Interdepartmental study.** The Commis-
5 sioner of Educational and Cultural Services and the
6 Commissioner of Human Services shall assign an inter-
7 departmental committee to study the following issues:

8 1. Assess the current need for a training pro-
9 gram to assist those individuals who are required by
10 state law to report suspected child abuse and neglect
11 to:

12 A. Recognize child abuse and neglect;

13 B. Understand the reporting requirements; and

14 C. Know how to deal with the child abuse family
15 and victim;

16 2. Evaluate various methods of implementing a
17 training requirement for individuals who are required
18 by state law to report suspected child abuse and ne-
19 glect, including, but not limited to, the possibility
20 of in-service training requirements, requirements for
21 obtaining or renewing a license and certification or
22 recertification;

23 3. Assess the feasibility of and the benefits
24 that might be obtained from developing a curriculum
25 in grades kindergarten to 12 on recognizing, report-
26 ing and coping with child abuse and neglect; and

27 4. Develop a program to implement the recommen-
28 dations of the committee.

29 This committee shall report its findings, together
30 with any recommendations, to the Legislature no later
31 than January 15, 1986.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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Currently, the child abuse and reporting law mandates that certain people report child abuse and neglect if they have reasonable cause to suspect abuse or neglect. There is no training required for these individuals. This bill establishes training standards for educators and human services caseworkers.

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In addition, this bill would establish an inter-departmental committee to assess the need for a training program for all individuals who are required to report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect, to evaluate the feasibility of and the benefits that might be obtained from a curriculum in grades kindergarten to 12 on recognizing and coping with child abuse and neglect, and to develop a program to implement their recommendations.

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