

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 359

H.P. 276 House of Representatives, February 12, 1987  
Reference to the Committee on Human Resources suggested  
and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative MANNING of Portland.

Cosponsored by Representative PINES of Limestone,  
Senators GAUVREAU of Androscoggin and GILL of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Concerning Interdepartmental  
Coordination of Services to Children  
and Families.

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

34-B MRSA §1214 is enacted to read:

§1214. Committee for the Interdepartmental Coordina-  
tion of Services to Children and Families

1. Establishment. The Committee for the Inter-  
departmental Coordination of Services to Children and  
Families is established.

2. Purpose. It is the intent of the Legislature  
to encourage the coordination of policies and pro-  
grams for Maine children and families.

1           3. Membership. The committee shall be composed  
2 of 4 members: The Commissioner of Corrections; Com-  
3 missioner of Educational and Cultural Services; Com-  
4 missioner of Human Services; and Commissioner of Men-  
5 tal Health and Mental Retardation.

6           4. Goals of the committee. The goals of the  
7 committee shall be:

8           A. To encourage a statewide system of coordi-  
9 nated services, which are responsive to the cur-  
10 rent needs of children and families and which are  
11 delivered by a partnership of public, private and  
12 nonprofit state level and community based agen-  
13 cies, and to promote access to services by all  
14 children and their families who are in need of  
15 these services;

16           B. To evaluate on a continuing basis the alloca-  
17 tion of resources to ensure the availability of  
18 quality services delivered in a coordinated and  
19 efficient manner that is consistent with the  
20 needs of children and families; and

21           C. To continue the development of a comprehen-  
22 sive and coordinated approach to initiation and  
23 revision of policy affecting services to children  
24 and families.

25           5. Meetings. The committee shall meet on a reg-  
26 ular basis.

27           6. Chairman. The committee shall select a  
28 chairman from among the 4 commissioners and the  
29 chairman shall serve for a term established by the  
30 committee.

31           7. Subcommittees. The committee may appoint  
32 subcommittees to carry out its work. Subcommittee  
33 membership may include representatives of public and  
34 private agencies which serve youth and families and  
35 other persons with special knowledge of, responsibil-  
36 ity for or interest in an area related to the goals  
37 of the committee.

38           8. Report. The committee shall report annually  
39 to the Legislature on its progress in meeting the

1 goals cited in subsection 4 and its proposals for im-  
2 plementing these same goals in the forthcoming year.

3 9. Administration. The costs associated with  
4 the committee shall be shared among the members of  
5 the committee. Nothing in this section may be con-  
6 strued to prohibit a member department from assigning  
7 its employees to serve as staff to the committee.  
8 The Department of Mental Health and Mental Retarda-  
9 tion shall serve as fiscal agent for the committee.

10 10. Authorization to accept funds. The Depart-  
11 ment of Mental Health and Mental Retardation may ac-  
12 cept, on behalf of the committee, funds from the Fed-  
13 eral Government, from any political subdivision of  
14 the State or from any individual, foundation or cor-  
15 poration and may expend these funds for purposes  
16 which are consistent with this section.

17 STATEMENT OF FACT

18 In closing days of the Second Regular Session of  
19 the 108th Legislature, the Department of Human Ser-  
20 vices, Department of Mental Health and Mental Retar-  
21 dation and Department of Educational and Cultural  
22 Services were requested to develop a coordinated pol-  
23 icy on services to children and families. On January  
24 27, 1978, the Commissioner of Human Services, Commis-  
25 sioner of Mental Health and Mental Retardation and  
26 Department of Educational and Cultural Services pre-  
27 sented to the Governor and the 108th Legislature a  
28 report entitled Coordinating Services for Children  
29 and Families. The report contained a series of rec-  
30 ommendations, some of which required legislative ac-  
31 tion. The commissioners also agreed to establish an  
32 interdepartmental committee to coordinate services  
33 for children and families between the 3 departments.  
34 When the Department of Corrections was separated from  
35 the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retarda-  
36 tion, the Commissioner of Corrections was added to  
37 the membership of the committee. The committee has  
38 met since 1978 and has taken significant steps  
39 towards resolving long-standing problems of duplica-  
40 tion and gaps in services. This bill mandates the  
41 Commissioner of Corrections, Commissioner of Human

1 Services, Commissioner of Mental Health and Mental  
2 Retardation and Commissioner of Educational and Cul-  
3 tural Services to serve on an interdepartmental team  
4 to continue the efforts of coordination of children  
5 and family services and review policies that have al-  
6 ready begun and to report to the Legislature on an  
7 annual basis regarding their progress.

8 The costs of the committee are currently shared  
9 among the 4 participating departments. This bill  
10 continues the arrangement and entails no additional  
11 fiscal demands.

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