

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

NO. 2559

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H.P. 1861 House of Representatives, March 22, 1988  
Reported by Representative ROLDE from the Joint Standing  
Committee on Audit and Program Review pursuant to Maine  
Revised Statutes Annotated, Title 3, chapter 23.

Reference to the Joint Standing Committee on  
Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and printing  
ordered under Joint Rule 18.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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1 AN ACT to Fund the Office of Child Welfare  
2 Services Ombudsman.  
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4 Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the  
5 Legislature do not become effective until 90 days  
6 after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

7 Whereas, many people have serious concerns and  
8 complaints regarding their involvement in Maine's  
9 child welfare services system; and

1       Whereas, thorough review of these concerns needs  
2 to occur; and

3       Whereas, no formal mechanism exists to highlight  
4 these concerns and facilitate their resolution; and

5       Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these  
6 facts create an emergency within the meaning of the  
7 Constitution of Maine and require the following  
8 legislation as immediately necessary for the  
9 preservation of the public peace, health and safety;  
10 now, therefore,

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

13       **Appropriation.**       The following funds are  
14 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the  
15 purposes of this Act.

16		<u>1988-89</u>
17	<u>EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT</u>	
18	Office of Child Welfare	
19	Services Ombudsman	
20	Positions	(2)
21	Personal Services	\$64,000
22	All Other	9,000
23	Capital Expenditures	2,000
24		
25	Total	<u>\$75,000</u>

26       Provides funds for an  
27 ombudsman and one  
28 support position to  
29 the Office of Child  
30 Welfare Services  
31 Ombudsman.

1       **Emergency clause.**       In view of the emergency  
2 cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when  
3 approved.

4   **STATEMENT OF FACT**

5       This bill funds the Office of Child Welfare  
6 Services Ombudsman within the Executive Department to  
7 represent the best interests of children and others  
8 involved in the child welfare system by:

9           1.   Providing oversight of child welfare services  
10 offered by state agencies;

11           2.   Increasing accountability of state agencies  
12 regarding the provision of child welfare services; and

13           3.   Providing an avenue of recourse for people who  
14 have problems, issues, concerns or complaints  
15 regarding child welfare services provided by or within  
16 the jurisdiction of state agencies.

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