

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 335  
(Filing No. S- 152)

STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
114TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " A " to S.P. 178, L.D. 335, Bill, "An Act to Strengthen the Social Worker Training and Education Requirements"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 22 MRSA c. 1063 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 1063

SOCIAL WORKERS' AND CASEWORKERS' TRAINING

§3911. Training plan

The department shall develop a training plan for persons employed in social worker and caseworker job classifications. The department shall establish the goals and objectives of the plan. The department shall also establish goals and objectives for each course and training program that must be designed to meet the goals and objectives of the plan. The plan shall include, but is not limited to:

1. Differentiation of training to meet specific needs. Courses and training programs designed to meet the specific needs of social workers and caseworkers engaged in different activities based on the different responsibilities of these social workers and caseworkers;

2. Mandatory training. Courses and training programs designed to meet the specific needs of social workers and caseworkers for which successful completion shall be mandatory;

3. Optional training. Optional courses and training programs for social workers and caseworkers;

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4. Assessment and investigation. Courses and training programs in assessment and investigation that shall be mandatory for social workers and caseworkers who conduct investigations or assessments involving clients of the department that may result in the filing of civil or criminal actions;

5. Sources of training. A description of courses and training programs that departmental staff will conduct and a description of courses and training programs to be conducted by persons outside the department;

6. Evaluation procedure. An evaluation procedure by which the effectiveness of the courses and training programs can be determined. The department, to the greatest possible extent, will use objective criteria to conduct evaluations of courses and training programs; and

7. Equivalent training. Provisions for the waiver of training programs and courses for social workers and caseworkers with equivalent training or training that exceeds the training requirements in the plan.

§3912. Implementation

The department shall establish a schedule governing successful completion of course and training requirements for newly employed social workers and caseworkers of the department and a schedule for all other social workers and caseworkers currently employed by the department.

§3913. Report

The department shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over human resource matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government regarding the training plan and any findings and recommendations, including any necessary implementing legislation of the department, no later than January 3, 1990. The report shall include a statistical analysis of social workers who have taken and completed various courses and training programs provided by the department or by agencies, organizations, or persons outside the department.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §7030, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Continuing educational requirements. The board may establish continuing educational requirements as the board deems necessary. In developing these requirements, the board shall consider training requirements for social workers who are required to conduct investigations or assessments which may lead to the filing of civil or criminal actions.

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**FISCAL NOTE**

The Department of Human Services will develop the training plan for social workers and caseworkers utilizing existing resources.'

**STATEMENT OF FACT**

This amendment requires the Department of Human Services to develop a plan of training for social workers and caseworkers. Included in the plan is a requirement that training be provided to social workers and caseworkers who conduct investigations involving clients of the department that may lead to the filing of civil or criminal actions. In addition, training requirements must meet the specific needs and different responsibilities of social workers and caseworkers. The plan will include both mandatory and optional training and course requirements.

The State Board of Social Worker Licensure is empowered by this amendment to establish continuing education requirements as the board deems necessary. The board is required to consider educational requirements for social workers who conduct investigations that may lead to the filing of civil or criminal actions.

The Department of Human Services will report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over human resource matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters by January 3, 1990, with respect to the training plan and the programs to be offered to social workers and caseworkers.

Reported by Senator Berube for the Committee on State and Local Government. Reproduced and Distributed Pursuant to Senate Rule 12.  
(5/23/89)

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