

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

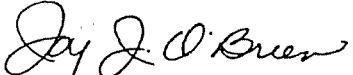
Legislative Document

No. 335

S.P. 178

In Senate, February 22, 1989

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.


JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator KANY of Kennebec.

Cosponsored by Representative GWADOSKY of Fairfield, Representative HUSSEY of Milo and Representative MARSTON of Oakland.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act to Strengthen the Social Worker Training and Education Requirements.



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

3 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §7072, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:**

5 2-A. State employees employed as social workers. State
7 employees employed as social workers must meet the requirements
9 in Title 32, section 7054-B.

11 **Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §7054-B is enacted to read:**

13 §7054-B. State employees employed as social workers

15 Any person employed by the State as a social worker must
17 meet the requirements of this section.

19 1. Examination on Child and Family Services and Child
21 Protection Act. As a condition to the employment or continued
23 employment of any person by the State as a social worker, that
25 person must successfully complete an examination administered by
27 the Bureau of Human Resources with respect to the provisions of
 Title 22, chapter 1071, concerning child abuse and neglect,
 parental rights, investigations, protection orders and other
 provisions relating to the protection of children. Every person
 employed as a social worker by the State on the effective date of
 this section, within one year from the effective date of this
 section and every 2 years thereafter, must successfully complete
 the examination required in this section.

29 2. Investigation training. As a condition to the
31 employment or continued employment of any person by the State as
33 a social worker, that person must successfully complete a course
35 of training and an examination as prescribed by the Board of
 Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy with respect to
 conducting investigations pursuant to Title 22, chapter 1071.

37 A. Every person employed by the State as a social worker on
39 the effective date of this section must successfully
41 complete the course of training and the examination required
43 by this subsection within 2 years from the effective date of
45 this section.

47 B. The Bureau of Human Resources may waive this subsection
49 in individual cases, when an applicant or employee has
51 successfully completed an equivalent course.

C. The Bureau of Human Resources, in cooperation with the
 Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and
 the state agencies which employ social workers, shall
 establish a plan to implement this subsection to include,
 but not be limited to:

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- (1) The location or locations of the course of training;
- (2) Administration of the examination; and
- (3) Provisions for persons who fail to successfully complete the course and examination.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill proposes to require state employees employed as social workers to obtain training and successfully complete a course and examination with respect to conducting investigations pursuant to the Child and Family Services and Child Protection Act. The Board of Trustees of the Criminal Justice Academy will prescribe the course. The Bureau of Human Resources, in cooperation with the board of trustees and state agencies which employ social workers, will develop a plan for the implementation of the training program and administration of the examination.

Current social workers will be required to successfully complete the course of training and the examination within 2 years from the effective date of the bill. Any applicant or state employee subject to this section who has successfully completed an equivalent course and examination may be waived from this requirement as determined by the Bureau of Human Resources.

This bill also proposes that state employees employed as social workers successfully complete an examination every 2 years with respect to the Child and Family Services and Child Protection Act. Current state social workers are required to successfully complete this examination within 2 years from the effective date of this bill.