



114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 876

H.P. 642

House of Representatives, March 22, 1989

Reference to the Committee on Human Resources suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative CASHMAN of Old Town. Cosponsored by Senator GAUVREAU of Androscoggin, Representative MANNING of Portland and Representative McGOWAN of Canaan.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act to Allow the Department of Human Services to Share Information with Support Teams for Foster Parents. 1

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

22 MRSA §4008, sub-§2, $\P E$, as amended by PL 1983, c. 354, §1, is further amended to read:

Ε. Α person having the leqal responsibility or authorization to educate, care for, evaluate, treat or supervise a child, parent or custodian who is the subject of a record. This shall include a member of a treatment team or group convened to plan for or treat a child or family which is the subject of a record. This may also include a member of a support team for foster parents, if that team has been reviewed and approved by the department;

STATEMENT OF FACT

19 Foster parents need a stronger support system to assist them in their vital and difficult work providing for Maine's foster 21 The Department of Human Services and the Maine Foster families. Parent Association are developing support teams to strengthen the 23 support systems for foster parents. These teams are trained and experienced people, but they can only provide very limited 25 assistance because the law does not allow the Department of Human Services to share information about a particular child. This 27 bill allows the department the option of sharing information when the department believes it is appropriate. The support teams 29 will not only be able to assist individual foster parents, but will assist in retention and recruitment of foster homes and 31 thereby strengthen the foster care system.

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