

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

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Legislative Document

No. 1601

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S.P. 573

In Senate, May 10, 1989

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

  
JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator GILL of Cumberland.

Cosponsored by Representative MANNING of Portland, Senator BUSTIN of Kennebec and Representative PENDLETON of Scarborough.

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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An Act to Initiate Therapeutic Group Homes.

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(EMERGENCY)



1           **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not  
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted  
3 as emergencies; and

4           Whereas, there are many children in need of supervision and  
5 treatment outside the home for whom placements are currently  
6 unavailable; and

7           Whereas, many of these children are in desperate need of the  
8 structure of a therapeutic group home, but there are no such  
9 placements available for them in Maine; and

10           Whereas, many of these children would benefit from placement  
11 with a foster family if adequate training and support services  
12 were made available to foster parents to establish such homes; and

13           Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts  
14 create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of  
15 Maine and require the following legislation as immediately  
16 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and  
17 safety; now, therefore,

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

19           **Sec. 1. 34-B MRSA §6201, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:**

20           1-A. Child in need of supervision. "Child in need of  
21 supervision" means a child up to 18 years of age who may benefit  
22 from services and who is:

23           A. Runaway or homeless;

24           B. Repeatedly aggressive toward family members or property;

25           C. Repeatedly disobedient to reasonable and proper orders  
26 of a parent, guardian or other custodian or who is beyond  
27 the control of a parent, guardian or other custodian;

28           D. Truant;

29           E. Not currently or consistently being served optimally by  
30 the system or agency with whom the child is involved;

31           F. Not voluntarily accepting services; or

32           G. Is in a family at risk.

33           **Sec. 2. 34-B MRSA §6204, sub-§1, ¶B, as enacted by PL 1985, c.**  
34 **503, §12, is amended to read:**

35           B. Facilitate the planning, promoting, coordination,  
36 delivery and evaluation of a complete and integrated

1 statewide system of services to children in need of  
treatment and their families; and

3

Sec. 3. 34-B MRSA §6204, sub-§1, ¶C, as amended by PL 1987, c.  
5 349, Pt. H, §27, is further amended to read:

7 C. Support those services appropriate to children in need  
of treatment and their families, including, but not  
9 necessarily limited to, the following:

- 11 (1) Advocacy;
- 13 (2) Assessment and diagnosis;
- 15 (3) Child development;
- 17 (4) Consultation and education;
- 19 (5) Crisis intervention;
- 21 (6) Family guidance and counseling;
- 23 (7) Preventive intervention;
- 25 (8) Professional consultation and training;
- 27 (9) Respite care and other family support services; and
- 29 (10) Treatment; and

31 Sec. 4. 34-B MRSA §6204, sub-§1, ¶D is enacted to read:

33 D. Ensure that services are available to address the  
35 problems of children in need of supervision.

37 (1) The bureau shall provide or arrange for the  
39 provision of at least the following services:

41 (a) Administrative services; and

43 (b) Services delivery systems, including:

45 (i) Evaluation and assessment services;

47 (ii) Respite care and other family support  
49 services;

51 (iii) Homeless shelters and emergency  
53 shelters; and

55 (iv) Therapeutic group homes.

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

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**STATEMENT OF FACT**

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The purpose of this bill is reflected in the emergency preamble.