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STATEMENT OF FACT

The amendment makes it clear that only those chairs of professional licensing boards that have jurisdiction over mandated reporters are included in the requirements of section 2 of the bill.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "/" to H.P. 1611, L.D. 2227

- 2 The amendment incorporates in section 5 of the bill the Department of Human Services' current policy regarding notice of the preliminary protection order to absent parents. 4 department policy requires a diligent search for the absent parent. If the absent parent is not found through these efforts, 6 the department submits an affidavit to the court explaining the 8 efforts made to locate and notify the parent. The court then authorizes notice by publication as provided in the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, or waives notice entirely. This amendment 10 clarifies the law to specifically authorize the court to waive notice, once the department shows diligent efforts have been made 12 to no avail. The Maine Rules of Civil Procedure provide for 14 service by publication upon court order.
- The amendment adds a section to the bill to make the child welfare services ombudsman a permanent member of the Child Welfare Advisory Committee.

Reported by the Committee on Human Resources
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