

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
115TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 614, L.D. 874, Bill, "An Act Concerning the Judicial Review of Children in Custody of the Department of Human Services"

Amend the bill by striking out all of sections 2 and 3 and inserting in their place the following:

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4035, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Final protection order. The court shall issue a final protection order within 18 months of the filing of the child protection petition unless good cause is shown why the order should not be issued within that time period.

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §4038, sub-§7, as amended by PL 1989, c. 270, §14, is further amended to read:

7. Review of child in custody of the department. When a child has been placed in the custody of the department, the following shall must be accomplished.

A. The court shall review the final protection order and make a determination within 18 months of its initial order either to:

- (1) Return the child to the parent;
- (2) Continue reunification efforts for a specific limited time not to exceed 6 months and to judicially review the matter within the time specified; or
- (3) Enter an order under section 4036, subsection 1, paragraph G-1.

