

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 1162

H.P. 808

House of Representatives, March 18, 1991

Submitted by the Department of Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 24.
Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Pert".

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

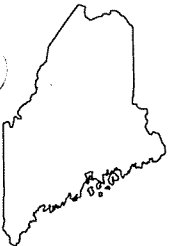
Presented by Representative **PENDLETON** of Scarborough.

Cosponsored by Senator **GILL** of Cumberland, Senator **BUSTIN** of Kennebec and Representative **STEVENS** of Bangor.

STATE OF MAINE

**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE**

**An Act to Keep Portions of Foster Parent Licensing Records
Confidential.**



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

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22 MRSA §7703, sub-§2, ¶F, as amended by PL 1989, c. 502, Pt. A, §81, is further amended to read:

F. Any information about the private life of any person who has applied for a license or approval or is or has been licensed or approved as an adult foster home, as defined in section 7901-A, subsection 3, and family foster home as defined in section 8101, subsection 3, in which there is no legitimate public interest and which would be offensive to a reasonable person, if disclosed. The foster home study of an applicant for a license or approval as a family foster home is confidential.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Current law requires that licensing records, with some exceptions, be open to the public. The licensing of family foster homes requires an in-depth study of the personal histories of individuals who apply. However, the knowledge that the personal information may be made available to the general public affects the candor of the applicants. Current law allows the Department of Human Services to determine what information may be released. The bill requires that foster home studies be kept confidential and are not subject to release without permission of the foster parents or pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, sections 7703.