MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 1640

H.P. 1115

House of Representatives, April 24, 1991

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative ST. ONGE of Greene. Cosponsored by Representative DORE of Auburn.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act to Provide Skilled Supervisors to Oversee Weekly Visits between Foster Children and Their Biological Families.



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

Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

1991-92 1992-93 6

HUMAN SERVICES. DEPARTMENT OF

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Child Welfare Services

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\$187,200 \$249,600 All Other

14 STATE OF SE Provides funds to contract 16 for skilled each year supervisors to oversee weekly 18 visits between 200 children placed in foster care and 20 their biological families.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill provides funds to contract for skilled supervisors to oversee weekly visits between 200 children placed in foster care and their biological families. Currently, this supervisory 28 role often falls to the foster parent due to insufficient staff 30 in the Department of Human Services, long travel distances and scheduling. Supervision by foster parents, however, may be inappropriate since foster parents may lack the appropriate 32 skills or may be unable to develop the necessary supporting Skilled visitation relationship with the biological family. supervisors will be recruited from appropriate community members foster parents to facilitate reunification 36 and substantially improve family visits by supporting the entire family, particularly the child, and documenting the visit. 38