

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

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Legislative Document

No. 1845

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H.P. 1274

House of Representatives, May 13, 1991

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative RYDELL of Brunswick.

Cosponsored by Senator BRANNIGAN of Cumberland and Representative AULT of Wayne.

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STATE OF MAINE

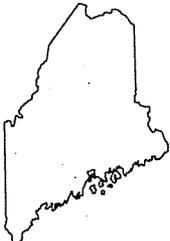
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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE

---

**An Act to Require the Use of People First Language in the Maine  
Revised Statutes and to Authorize Administrative Implementation of  
Associated Changes in Terminology.**

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

2  
4       Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §71, sub-§13 is enacted to read:

6       13. People first language In preparing any legislation  
8       that amends a section or smaller or larger division of the  
10       statutes, the Revisor of Statutes shall replace terms designated  
12       for substitution by the Legislature with terms that have been  
14       authorized by the Legislature as people first language. The  
16       Revisor of Statutes may not otherwise alter the sense, meaning or  
18       effect of any statutes.

20       Sec. 2. Revision clause. Wherever in the Maine Revised  
22       Statutes the terms or titles in the column entitled "Current  
24       Language" appear or reference is made to them, they are amended  
26       to read and mean the corresponding terms or titles in the column  
28       entitled "Replace With."

Current Language	Replace With
Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee for Preschool Handi- capped Children	Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee for Preschool Children with Disabilities
Maine Committee on the Problems of the Mentally Retarded	Maine Committee on Mental Retardation
Preschool Handicapped Children's Coordination Services Council	Coordination Services Council for Preschool Children with Disabilities
Protection and Advocacy Agency for the Develop- mentally Disabled	Protection and Advocacy Agency for People with Developmental Disabilities
Protection and Advocacy Agency for the Develop- mentally Disabled in Maine	Protection and Advocacy Agency for People with Developmental Disabilities in Maine
Protection and Advocacy Agency of the Develop- mentally Disabled in Maine	Protection and Advocacy Agency for People with Developmental Disabilities in Maine

30       Sec. 3. Revision clause. Wherever in the Maine Revised  
32       Statutes, Titles 20-A, 22 and 34-B, the terms or titles in the  
34       column entitled "Current Language" appear or reference is made to  
36       them, they are amended to read and mean the corresponding terms  
38       or titles in the column entitled "Replace With."

	Current Language	Replace With
2	afflicted	affected
4	aged person	older person
6	aged, blind and disabled individuals	people who are aged, blind or disabled
8		
10	aged, blind, mentally ill, mentally retarded or other person	person who is aged, blind, mentally ill, mentally retarded or other
12		
14	alcoholic	person dependent upon alcohol
16	blind (noun)	people who are blind
18	blind children	children who are blind
20	blind individual	individual who is blind
22	blind person	person who is blind
24	blind persons	people who are blind
26	blind, disabled and elderly person	person who is blind, disabled or elderly
28		
30	consumers of mental health services	people who use mental health services
32	deaf and hearing impaired persons	people who are deaf or hearing impaired
34		
36	developmentally disabled (noun)	people with developmental disabilities
38	developmentally disabled person	person with a developmental disability
40		
42	developmentally disabled persons	people with developmental disabilities
44	disabled person	person with a disability
46	disadvantaged elderly individual	elder person who is disadvantaged
48		
50	disadvantaged individual	individual who is disadvantaged
52	drug addict	person addicted to drugs

2	elderly, disadvantaged individual	elder person who is disadvantaged
4	emotionally handicapped children	children with emotional disabilities
6	emotionally handicapped schoolage children	schoolage children with emotional disabilities
8		
10	exceptional students	students with exceptionality
12	funds for the developmentally disabled	funds for people with developmental disabilities
14		
16	gifted and talented students	students who are gifted and talented
18	handicapped and disadvantaged individual	person who is disabled or disadvantaged
20		
22	handicapped children	children with disability
24	handicapped individual	person with disability
26	handicapped individuals	people with disability
28	handicapped or disadvantaged (noun)	people who are disabled or disadvantaged
30	handicapped persons	peoples with disability
32	handicapped youths	youth with disability
34	illegitimate child	child who is illegitimate
36	incapacitated adult's rights	rights of an adult who is incapacitated
38		
40	incapacitated adults	adults who are incapacitated
42	incapacitated person	person who is incapacitated
44	incompetent person	person who is incompetent
46	indigent client	client who is indigent
48	infected person	person who is infected
50	infirm persons	people with infirmity
52	intoxicated person	person who is intoxicated

2	long-term mentally ill	person with long-term mental illness
4	medically indigent individuals	people who are medically indigent
6	mentally retarded students	students who are mentally retarded
8	mentally ill and mentally deficient (noun)	people who are mentally ill or mentally deficient
10	mentally ill (singular)	person with mental illness or
12	(noun)	mental retardation
14	mentally ill (plural)	people with mental illness
16	(noun)	or mental retardation
18	mentally ill client	client with mental illness
20	mentally ill patient	patient with mental illness
22	mentally ill people	people who are mentally ill
24	mentally ill person	person who is mentally ill
26	mentally retarded client's	of a client with mental
28		retardation
30	mentally retarded clients	clients with mental retardation
32	mentally retarded juveniles	juveniles with mental retardation
34	mentally retarded person	person with mental retardation
36	mentally retarded persons	people with mental retardation
38	needy individuals	individuals in need
40	needy persons	people in need
42	physically abused children	children who have been physically
44		abused
46	poor (noun)	people in poverty
48	preschool handicapped child	preschool child with disability
50	protection and advocacy for	protection and advocacy for people
52	the developmentally disabled	with developmental disabilities
	severely handicapped (noun)	people with severe disability
	severely physically disabled	people with severe physical

2	(noun)	disability
4	severely physically disabled persons	people with severe physical disabilities
6	special fund for rehabilitation of disabled persons	special fund for rehabilitation of people with disability
8	state agency client	client of a state agency
10	supplemental security income for blind, disabled and elderly people	supplemental security income for people who are blind, disabled or elderly

14           **Sec. 4. Revision clause.** Wherever in the Maine Revised  
16 Statutes, Title 18-A, the terms in the column entitled "Current  
18 Language" appear or reference is made to them, they are amended  
to read and mean the corresponding terms in the column entitled  
"Replace With."

20	Current Language	Replace With
22		
24	incapacitated person	person who is incapacitated
26	mentally retarded (noun)	people with mental retardation
28		
30	mentally retarded or incapacitated persons	people who are mentally retarded or incapacitated
32	mentally retarded or incompetent persons	people who are mentally retarded or incapacitated
34		
36	mentally retarded minor	minor with mental retardation

38           **Sec. 5. Revisions authorized.** The Revisor of Statutes, referred  
to in this Act as the "revisor," shall implement these revisions  
when next updating the Maine Revised Statutes. The revisor may  
40 make adjustments to capitalization or phrasing as necessary to  
properly implement the people first language authorized in this  
42 Act.

44           **Sec. 6. Legislative intent.** Any change made by the revisor may  
not change the substantive meaning of any statutory unit. Any  
46 error or inadvertent substantive change made by the revisor must  
be construed as a clerical error and given no effect. If the  
48 revisor is in doubt whether a specific change would have a  
substantive effect, the revisor may not make the change but shall  
50 incorporate the proposed change into the legislation authorized  
by this Act.

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