

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1985

(Filing No. H-783)

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
115TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1402, L.D. 1985, Bill, "An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 1992 and June 30, 1993 and to Change Certain Provisions of Law"

Amend the bill by inserting at the end before the emergency clause the following:

PART OO

Sec. OO-1. 22 MRSA §3877 is enacted to read:

§3877. Coordinating committee in each county

The department shall provide funds to at least one community coordinating committee in each county.

Sec. OO-2. **Funding for child abuse and neglect councils.** The Department of Human Services shall provide a level of funding for child abuse and neglect councils in fiscal years 1991-92 and 1992-93 that is at least equal to the level of funding from the department on September 1, 1991.

Sec. OO-3. **Supervisory review of intake cases.** The Department of Human Services shall make every effort to conduct a supervisory review of each intake case in the child protection system within 72 hours of the case's referral to the department. If the department finds that it does not have adequate resources to conduct these supervisory reviews within 72 hours, the department shall submit a funding request to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs that enables the department to conduct the reviews within 72 hours. The funding request or a statement from the department that funding is not needed must be submitted by January 15, 1993.

2 **Sec. OO-4. Report on duplicate referrals.** The Department of
Human Services must determine how many referrals for child
3 protection services in calendar year 1992 are duplicate
4 referrals. For the purposes of this section, "duplicate
referral" means a referral regarding a family or individual who
5 has been the subject of a previous referral in 1992. The
department must present a written report to the joint standing
6 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over human
7 resources matters by February 1, 1993.

10 **Sec. OO-5. Child protection study.** The Department of Human
11 Services and the Department of the Attorney General shall conduct
a study regarding the feasibility of using more administrative
12 hearings in the child protection system to reduce the amount of
court action in child protective cases. The departments shall
13 submit a report, along with any needed legislation, to the Joint
Standing Committee on Human Resources by March 1, 1992.

18 **Sec. OO-6. Automation of intake function.** Within existing
19 funds, the Department of Human Services shall enter into
lease-purchase agreements for computer equipment to automate the
20 intake function in every child protection services office by
February 1, 1992.

24 **Sec. OO-7. Legislative review of "11-point plan."** Before
25 implementing any part of its so-called "11-point plan" for child
protection services that has not previously been approved by the
26 Legislature, the Department of Human Services shall submit to the
joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction
27 over human resources matters notice of the department's intention
to implement that part of the "11-point plan" along with a
28 detailed description of that part.

34 **Sec. OO-8. Independent study of Bureau of Child and Family**
Services. Within existing funds, the Department of Human Services
35 shall hire a consultant within the State to conduct an
independent review of the Bureau of Child and Family Services.
36 The consultant must be overseen by a committee comprised of the
Director of the Bureau of Child and Family Services, a member of
37 the Interdepartmental Council's committee on sex abuse appointed
by the chair of the Interdepartmental Council, a member of the
38 Child Welfare Advisory Committee appointed by the chair of the
Child Welfare Advisory Committee and a member of the Maine
39 Association of Child Abuse and Neglect Council appointed by the
chair of the association.

46 Further amend the bill by relettering the Parts to read
47 consecutively.

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FISCAL NOTE

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The cost of this amendment can not be determined at this time.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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10 This amendment requires that the Department of Human
12 Services continue to fund at least one child abuse and neglect
14 council in each county and that funding for fiscal years 1991-92
16 and 1992-93 be at least the same as it was on September 1, 1991.
18 It also requires the department to try to provide a supervisory
20 review of all child abuse referrals within 72 hours and to
request additional funds in 1993 if it finds that the review can
not be conducted that quickly. The amendment also requires the
department to submit a report on duplicate referrals made to the
child protective system and to prepare and submit jointly with
the Attorney General's office recommendations for expanding the
use of administrative proceedings in the child protective system.

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The amendment also requires the department to lease computer
terminals for its child protection intake workers within existing
funds and to submit detailed plans to the Legislature prior to
implementing parts of its "11-point plan" for child protection
services. The amendment also requires that an independent review
of the Bureau of Child and Family Services be undertaken.

Filed by Rep. Manning of Portland
Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk
of the House.

12/18/91

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