

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1543, L.D. 2176, Bill, "An Act Concerning the Early Establishment of Counseling for Children in Foster Care"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the following:

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3174-K is enacted to read:

§3174-K. Counseling for certain children

By October 1, 1992, the department shall adopt rules to provide Medicaid coverage for crisis counseling for children up to 21 years of age who are in crisis as a result of their removal or imminent removal from their parents' homes. The rules must allow the counseling to be provided by licensed clinical social workers.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4063-B is enacted to read:

§4063-B. Establishment of early counseling

Whenever a child is ordered into the custody of the department under this chapter and the child is not expected to be returned to the home within 21 days, the department shall obtain counseling for the child as soon as possible, unless the department finds that counseling is not indicated.

Sec. 3. Effective date. Section 2 of this Act takes effect October 1, 1992.

FISCAL NOTE

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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The Department of Human Services may require a General Fund appropriation for the costs associated with purchasing counseling services for children who are removed from their homes if such services are not readily available through covered Medicaid services.

If counseling services are provided and are Medicaid reimbursable, the Department of Human Services can absorb the costs of any additional recipients within the budgeted resources of the Medicaid program.

The additional costs associated with rulemaking can be absorbed by the Department of Human Services utilizing existing budgeted resources.

This amendment clarifies the language in the original bill and places it more appropriately in the Maine Revised Statutes. The amendment adds a provision requiring Medicaid coverage for crisis counseling for children who are removed from their homes.

The amendment removes the emergency preamble and emergency clause from the bill and adds a fiscal note.

Reported by the Committee on Human Resources
Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House
3/23/92 (Filing No. H-1179)