

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1992

Legislative Document

No. 2176

H.P. 1543

House of Representatives, January 21, 1992

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.
Reference to the Committee on Human Resources suggested and ordered printed.

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative DORE of Auburn.

Cosponsored by Representative CASHMAN of Old Town and Representative RAND of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

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

**An Act Concerning the Early Establishment of Counseling for Children
in Foster Care.**

(EMERGENCY)



Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, events involving children in extended foster care, such as separation from family, may cause severe stress for the children involved; and

Whereas, children should receive counseling as soon as possible after the trauma of being removed from their homes; and

Whereas, legislation is necessary to promote the early establishment of counseling for children in extended foster care; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

22 MRSA §4003, sub-§4, as amended by PL 1981, c. 698, §96, is further amended to read:

4. Permanent plans for care, counseling and custody. Promote the early establishment of permanent plans for the care, counseling and custody of children who cannot can not be returned immediately to their ~~family~~ families. It is the intent of the Legislature that the department reduce the number of children receiving assistance under the United States Social Security Act, Title IV-E, who have been in foster care more than 24 months, by 10% each year beginning with the federal fiscal year that starts on October 1, 1983.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill promotes the early establishment of counseling for children in foster care who can not be returned immediately to their families.