

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



# 115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1992

---

Legislative Document

No. 2220

H.P. 1573

House of Representatives, January 27, 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 black ink that reads "Ed Pert".

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative JOSEPH of Waterville.

Cosponsored by Speaker MARTIN of Eagle Lake and President PRAY of Penobscot.

---

STATE OF MAINE

---

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

---

Resolve, to Establish A Unified Department of Children and Families.

---

(EMERGENCY)



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

4  
6           **Whereas,** the Legislature finds that services for children  
and their families should be reorganized for maximum efficiency  
and effectiveness; and

8  
10          **Whereas,** the transition process for reorganization should  
begin immediately; and

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

18          **Sec. 1. Intent; creation of unified Department of Children and  
Families. Resolved:** That it is the intent of the Legislature that  
20 by July 1, 1993 the Department of Human Services be abolished and  
the Department of Children and Families created in its place.  
22 The functions of State Government must be reorganized to create a  
department that has as its single focus the delivery of services  
24 to children and their families; and be it further

26          **Sec. 2. Joint select committee established. Resolved:** That the  
Joint Select Committee on Children and Families is established  
28 and consists of 13 members of the Legislature including 3 members  
of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate and 10  
30 members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker  
of the House of Representatives as follows:

32  
34           1. Two members of the Joint Standing Committee on  
Appropriations and Financial Affairs;

36           2. Two members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education;

38           3. Two members of the Joint Standing Committee on Human  
Resources;

40           4. Two members of the Joint Select Committee on Corrections;

42           5. Two members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and  
44 Local Government; and

46           6. Three additional members of the Legislature.

48          All members must be appointed by June 1, 1992. The  
committee is abolished on December 1, 1992; and be it further

2           **Sec. 3. Joint select committee charged. Resolved:** That the Joint  
4           Select Committee on Children and Families shall develop, with the  
6           advice and assistance of officials of the executive branch, all  
8           legislation needed to implement the reorganization of services in  
10          accordance with this resolve, including amendments to the  
12          statutes, reallocation of funds and transitional language as  
14          needed. The legislation must be presented to the Legislature by  
16          November 1, 1992 for consideration during the First Regular  
18          Session of the 116th Legislature; and be it further

20           **Sec. 4. Content of legislation. Resolved:** That the legislation  
22          prepared by the Joint Select Committee on Children and Families  
24          must provide for at least the following:

26           1. Abolition of the Department of Human Services and  
28           creation of the Department of Children and Families with a  
30           unified case management system that ensures that each child and  
32           that child's family have only one case manager;

34           2. Transfer of the following programs from the Department  
36           of Corrections to the Department of Children and Families: the  
38           Maine Youth Center; juvenile detention programs; juvenile  
40           probation and parole; and contracted community services for  
42           juveniles;

44           3. Transfer from the Department of Education to the  
46           Department of Children and Families all programs for children  
48           ages 0 to 5, including but not limited to Child Development  
Services and all programs administered in accordance with federal  
Public Law 99-457;

          4. Transfer of Head Start from the Office of Community  
Services to the Department of Children and Families;

          5. Transfer of all children's substance abuse programs from  
the Executive Department, Office of Substance Abuse to the  
Department of Children and Families;

          6. Transfer of the following programs from the Department  
of Human Services to the Department of Children and Families:  
the functions of the Bureau of Child and Family Services; the  
functions of the Bureau of Health that relate directly to  
children and families; and the Family Preservation Program of the  
Bureau of Income Maintenance. The Joint Select Committee on  
Children and Families shall decide the appropriate places to  
transfer or consolidate the remainder of the Department of Human  
Services;

