

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

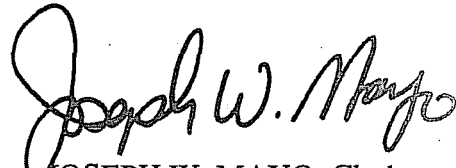
No. 292

H.P. 224

House of Representatives, February 4, 1993

An Act to Provide a Deterrent to Child Sexual Abuse.

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative FAIRCLOTH of Bangor.
Cosponsored by Senator LAWRENCE of York and
Representatives: CATHCART of Orono, COTE of Auburn, OTT of York, PLOWMAN of
Hampden, Senator: BERUBE of Androscoggin.

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

2
3 **Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §254, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 499,
4 §1, is amended to read:

6 3. Sexual abuse of minors is a Class D crime, except that
7 when the actor is 10 or more years older than the victim, or the
8 actor knows the victim is within the 2nd degree of consanguinity
9 of the actor, violation of this section is a Class C crime.

10 **Sec. 2. 17-A MRSA §255, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 499,
12 §1, is amended to read:

14 2. Unlawful sexual contact is a Class D crime, except that
15 a violation of subsection 1, paragraph C or G is a Class C crime.

16
17
18 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

19
20 This bill increases the deterrents for child sexual abuse.

21 First, this bill increases from a Class D crime to a Class C
22 crime the crime of sexual abuse of a minor in certain
23 circumstances. Those circumstances are:

24
25 1. If the actor is at least 10 years older than the victim
26 and the victim is 14 or 15 years old; or

27
28 2. If the actor knows the victim is related within the 2nd
29 degree of consanguinity to the actor. This is the same degree of
30 consanguinity that defines incest.

31
32 Second, this bill increases from a Class D crime to a Class
33 C crime the crime of unlawful sexual contact if the victim is
34 under 18 and the actor is a parent, stepparent, foster parent,
35 guardian or other similar person responsible for the long-term
36 general care and welfare of the victim.