

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

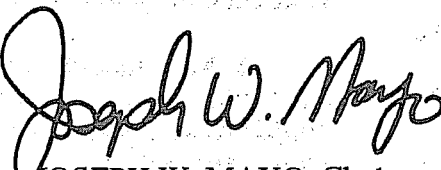
No. 902

H.P. 664

House of Representatives, March 15, 1993

An Act to Clarify the Role of the Child Abuse and Neglect Councils.

Reference to the Committee on Human Resources suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative TOWNSEND of Eastport.
Cosponsored by Representatives: CARROLL of Gray, CLOUTIER of South Portland,
CONSTANTINE of Bar Harbor, DRISCOLL of Calais, FAIRCLOTH of Bangor,
FARNSWORTH of Hallowell, GEAN of Alfred, GWADOSKY of Fairfield, HUSSEY of Milo,
KILKELLY of Wiscasset, LIPMAN of Augusta, MORRISON of Bangor, MURPHY of
Berwick, PARADIS of Augusta, PENDLETON of Scarborough, PFEIFFER of Brunswick,
PLOURDE of Biddeford, RYDELL of Brunswick, SKOGLUND of St. George, TOWNSEND of
Eastport, Senator: VOSE of Washington.

2 establish standards of practice by which it may evaluate the
3 effectiveness of each individual council's strategies to combat
4 child abuse and neglect and also maintain a statewide network
5 that works to develop statewide plans and effective
6 implementation strategies.

7 **Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §3872-A** is enacted to read:

8 **§3872-A. Child abuse and neglect council's responsibilities**

9 **1. Duties.** A child abuse and neglect council shall assess
10 and monitor the extent and causes of child abuse and neglect in
11 its county and carry out the following activities.

12 **A.** Coordinate services, utilizing community, state and
13 federal resources to ensure that direct services are being
14 provided to children and families.

15 **B.** Provide training to professionals who deal directly with
16 children and families.

17 **C.** Provide education and awareness concerning child abuse
18 and neglect and its prevention.

19 **Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §§3873 and 3874**, as enacted by PL 1985, c.
20 483, are amended to read:

21 **§3873. Authorization for expenditure of funds**

22 The Commissioner of Human Services may department and other
23 state agencies shall, from funds authorized to the department and
24 state agencies, make grants to incorporated---community
25 coordinating committees the child abuse and neglect councils or
26 fiscal agents to further the purposes of this chapter.

27 **1. Grants.** Grants shall must be made on a competitive
28 basis according to rules adopted or amended by the commissioner.
29 Grants in excess of \$15,000 shall must be made on a one-to-one
30 matching basis with contributions from the community. Community
31 contributions may be donations of cash or may be ~~in-kind~~ in-kind
32 contributions, as determined by departmental rule.

33 **2. Distribution of grants.** Grants shall must be awarded to
34 support existing ~~community-coordinating-committees~~ child abuse
35 and neglect councils and to assist the establishment of new
36 ~~community-coordinating-committees~~ child abuse and neglect
37 councils. It is the intent of this chapter to support a
38 statewide network of ~~community-coordinating-committees~~ by the end

2 ef--fiscal--year--1987 child abuse and neglect councils in each
county.

4 **3. Consultation with Maine Association of Child Abuse and**
5 **Neglect Councils.** The Maine Association of Child Abuse and
6 Neglect Councils shall advise the department regarding
7 the distribution of grants before any grants are awarded. The
8 Maine Association of Child Abuse and Neglect Councils, in
9 conjunction with the department, shall develop a plan
10 establishing a statewide strategy for child abuse and neglect
11 prevention in local counties and communities. This plan must be
12 implemented at least one month before January 1, 1994 and updated
13 annually. Grants must be awarded in accordance with the goals
14 and strategies set out in the plan.

16 **§3874. Fiscal agents**

18 A fiscal agent receiving grants under this chapter shall act
19 only in an administrative capacity to receive and distribute
20 grant money to the ~~community-coordinating-committee~~ child abuse
21 and neglect councils, as described in the rules promulgated
22 adopted by the department for regulating the local administration
23 of these programs.

24 **Sec. 5. 22 MRSA §3875**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 483, is
25 repealed.

26 **Sec. 6. 22 MRSA §3875-A** is enacted to read:

28 **§3875-A. Child abuse and neglect councils; membership**

30 The child abuse and neglect councils are responsible for
31 governing the community programs under this chapter. Each
32 council shall establish a governing board of directors. The
33 board must be diverse with broad-based participation in each
34 county. Terms of the directors and methods of appointment or
35 election of members must be determined by the child abuse and
36 neglect council's bylaws.

37 **Sec. 7. 22 MRSA §3876**, as enacted to read by PL 1985, c. 483,
38 is repealed.

40 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

42 This bill makes the following changes to the Maine Revised
43 Statutes, Title 22, chapter 1057 regarding the prevention of
44 child abuse and neglect.

2 1. The bill establishes the child abuse and neglect
councils, formerly known as community coordinating committees.

4 2. The bill recognizes the existence of and need for a
child abuse and neglect council in every county.

6 3. This bill requires the Department of Human Services in
8 coordination with the Maine Association of Child Abuse and
Neglect Councils to develop a child abuse and neglect prevention
10 plan.

12 4. The bill clarifies the duties of the Maine Association
of Child Abuse and Neglect Councils and of each council within a
14 community.