

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

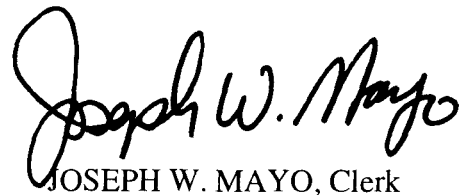
No. 967

H.P. 710

House of Representatives, March 23, 1995

**An Act to Amend the Adult Protective Services Act to Allow Referrals
of Cases of Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation to Law Enforcement
Agencies.**

Submitted by the Department of Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 24.
Reference to the Committee on Human Resources suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative TREAT of Gardiner.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3485**, as amended by PL 1989, c. 259, §7, is
further amended to read:

6 **§3485. Reporting abuse**

8 Upon finding evidence indicating that a person has abused or
neglected an incapacitated or dependent adult, resulting in
10 serious harm, or has exploited an incapacitated or dependent
adult, the department shall notify the district attorney or law
12 enforcement agency.

14 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

16
18 Currently, the Adult Protective Services Act allows the
State's adult protective services programs to make referrals of
cases of abuse, neglect and exploitation to district attorneys
20 for investigation and legal action. The purpose of this bill is
to streamline that referral process. In some counties, police
22 and sheriff's departments actually do the investigation rather
than the district attorney's office, and an initial referral to
24 the district attorney might delay action by law enforcement
agencies. This bill allows the state agencies within the
26 Department of Human Services to make referrals to the appropriate
law enforcement agency.