

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
118TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 738, L.D. 1002, Bill, "An Act Requiring the Department of Human Services to Provide Custodial History of Children in the Care of the Department"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act Directing the Department of Human Services to Submit an Annual Report on Children in Foster Care and on Adoption of Children in the Care and Custody of the Department'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. Annual report. The Department of Human Services shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by January 1st each year covering the operations of the Bureau of Child and Family Services and the experience of the department with foster care and adoptions of children in the care and custody of the department, including but not limited to the following topics:

A. A listing of the types of reports on the operations of the bureau that are available to the public and how the public can request those reports;

B. A listing of services provided to children and their families and foster families and any services needed but not provided, and a listing of problems experienced by children and their families and foster families;

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

2 C. The number of children in the care and custody of the
department, the average and median lengths of their custody
4 and the number who were previously in the custody of the
department;

6 D. The number of children in the care and custody of the
8 department in the process of reunification efforts and the
number in which parental rights have been terminated or are
10 in the process of termination;

12 E. The number of children in the care and custody of the
department available for adoption and the number of children
14 adopted, identifying special needs and nonspecial needs; the
number receiving adoption assistance; and the number adopted
16 by their foster parents;

18 F. The number of children in the care and custody of the
department placed out-of-state for hospitalization and
20 residential care and the costs for each; and

22 G. An analysis of any major initiatives planned by the
department to improve the functioning of the bureau and the
24 delivery of services to children in the care and custody of
the department and their families and foster families.'

26 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the
28 summary the following:

30 **FISCAL NOTE**

32 The additional costs associated with preparing an annual
34 report concerning the operations of the Bureau of Child and
Family Services can be absorbed by the Department of Human
36 Services utilizing existing budgeted resources.'

38 **SUMMARY**

40 This amendment replaces the bill. It requires an annual
42 report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human
Services from the Department of Human Services about the
44 operations of the Bureau of Child and Family Services. The
report covers the delivery of services to children in the care
46 and custody of the department and their families and foster
families and public access to information about the child welfare
48 system.