



118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 1585

H.P. 1129

House of Representatives, March 19, 1997

An Act to Provide Additional Adoption Assistance to State Employees.

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative SPEAR of Nobleboro. Cosponsored by Representatives: KNEELAND of Easton, TUTTLE of Sanford, WINGLASS of Auburn.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows: 2 Sec. 1. 18-A MRSA §9-405 is enacted to read: 4 §9-405. Additional adoption assistance for state employees 6 (a) An employee of this State, as defined in Title 5, section 20, subsection 1, may qualify for additional adoption 8 assistance under the terms of this subsection. 10 (1) The adopting person must be an employee of this State at the time of the adoption, which must be on or after 12 <u>October 1, 1997.</u> 14 (2) The adopted child may be a special needs child who is also eligible for adoption assistance under this Part or 16 another child in the care or custody of the State or in the custody of a nonprofit private licensed child-placing agency 18 in this State. A stepchild is not eligible for additional 20 adoption assistance. (3) Additional adoption assistance may continue until the 22 cessation of legal parental responsibility or until the 24 parents are no longer supporting the child. 26 (4) Additional adoption assistance may include reimbursement for the following actual costs of the adoption for a special needs child: up to \$10,000 for direct costs 28 related to the adoption, including but not limited to 30 medical costs not covered by insurance, fees of licensed adoption agencies, fees for the court process and attorneys and fees for investigations. 32 (5) 34 Additional adoption assistance may include reimbursement for the following actual costs of the adoption 36 for a child other than a special needs child: up to \$5,000 for direct costs related to the adoption, including but not limited to medical costs not covered by insurance, fees of 38 licensed adoption agencies, fees for the court process and 40 attorneys and fees for investigations. Sec. 2. Effective date. This Act takes effect October 1, 1997. 42 SUMMARY 44 46 This bill establishes an additional adoption assistance program for employees of this State who adopt special needs or 48 other children. Benefits are limited to actual costs of adoption, including but not limited to medical costs not covered 50 by insurance, fees of licensed adoption agencies, fees for the

Page 1-LR1155(1)

court process and attorneys and fees for investigations.