



## **118th MAINE LEGISLATURE**

## **FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-1997**

Legislative Document

No. 1700

H.P. 1200

House of Representatives, April 1, 1997

An Act to Simplify the Process for Applying for State Services for People with Disabilities.

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

SEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative WATSON of Farmingdale. Cosponsored by Senator HARRIMAN of Cumberland and Representatives: CIANCHETTE of South Portland, HATCH of Skowhegan, JOYNER of Hollis, KANE of Saco, LEMAIRE of Lewiston, SNOWE-MELLO of Poland, Senators: DAGGETT of Kennebec, PARADIS of Aroostook.

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3-E is enacted to read:

§3-E. Eligibility for services for people with disabilities who apply for state or federal programs

8 The department shall establish a central clearinghouse of information concerning all state assistance programs and, to the extent possible, all federal assistance programs for providing 10 services to people with disabilities. The department shall 12 create and make available in all state offices that offer services for people with disabilities a single application form to determine an applicant's eligibility for those services and 14direct the applicant to the appropriate offices if it appears that the applicant may be eligible. The applicant information is 16 confidential and, to protect the applicant's privacy, any dissemination of the information must be at the express written 18. approval of the applicant.

Sec. 2. Report. The Department of Human Services shall have the central clearinghouse of information concerning all state and federal assistance programs for providing services to people with disabilities in place by the fiscal year ending July 30, 2000 and shall report back to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters with a plan for accomplishing this in January 1998.

## SUMMARY

32 This bill requires the Department of Human Services to establish a central clearinghouse of information concerning all 34 state or federal assistance programs for providing services to people with disabilities and to create and make available a 36 single application form to be used by the department to determine an applicant's eligibility for any state or federal assistance 38 program.

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