

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
119TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1930, "Joint Order Establishing the Commission to Study Child Abuse"

Amend the order by striking out everything from the first indented paragraph to the end and inserting in its place the following:

'ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Commission on Child Abuse is established as follows.

1. Commission established. The Commission on Child Abuse, referred to in this order as the "commission," is established to study the prevention of and responses to child abuse.

2. Membership. The commission consists of the following 5 members, each of whom must possess a strong interest or expertise in the problem of child abuse:

A. Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate; and

B. Three members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House.

Appointments must include at least one member from each of the following: the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary; the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice; and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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**3. Appointments; chairs; convening of commission.** All appointments must be made no later than 30 days following passage of this order. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been made. The first named Senate member is the Senate chair and the first named House of Representatives member is the House chair. The first meeting must be called by the chairs no later than June 1, 2000.

**4. Duties.** The commission shall examine the current policies and public and private programs and resources related to physical and sexual abuse of children.

To this end, the commission may:

A. Hold public hearings to collect information from individuals and organizations to:

- 1. Define the scope and nature of the problem of child abuse;
- 2. Consider abuse of children who are now adults, with special emphasis on persons who, as children, were in the care or custody of the State;
- 3. Identify public and private programs addressing child abuse and child abuse prevention;
- 4. Identify public and private resources and potential resources to prevent and respond to child abuse;
- 5. Identify public and private resources for support and treatment of victims of child abuse; and
- 6. Identify means to coordinate the available programs and resources to prevent and respond to child abuse;

B. Consult with the following:

- 1. Child abuse clinical experts;
- 2. Medical care providers;
- 3. Child abuse prevention specialists;
- 4. Counselors and therapists with experience in treating child abuse;
- 5. Teachers and guidance counselors;

- 2                   6. District attorneys;
- 4                   7. Legal experts in child abuse prevention and  
proceedings;
- 6                   8. The Commissioner of Human Services;
- 8                   9. The Attorney General; and
- 10                  10. Any other person that the commission determines  
12 would be helpful to the commission's study; and

14                  C. Examine any other issues to further the purposes of the  
16 study.

18                  **5. Staff assistance.** Upon approval of the Legislative  
20 Council, the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis shall provide  
necessary staffing services to the commission.

22                  **6. Compensation.** Members of the commission are entitled to  
24 receive the legislative per diem as defined in the Maine Revised  
Statutes, Title 3, section 2 and reimbursement for travel and  
26 other necessary expenses for attendance at meetings of the  
commission.

28                  **7. Report.** The commission shall submit a report along with  
any recommended legislation to the 120th Legislature no later  
30 than November 1, 2000. If the commission requires an extension  
of time to make its report, it may apply to the Legislative  
32 Council, which may grant the extension.

34                  **8. Commission budget.** The chairs of the commission, with  
assistance from the commission staff, shall administer the  
36 commission budget. Within 10 days after its first meeting, the  
commission shall present a work plan and proposed budget to the  
Legislative Council for its approval. The commission may not  
38 incur expenses that would result in the commission's exceeding  
its approved budget. Upon request from the commission, the

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1930

2 Executive Director of the Legislative Council or the executive  
director's designee shall provide the commission chairs and staff  
4 with a status report on the commission budget, expenditures  
incurred and paid and available funds.'

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**SUMMARY**

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This amendment replaces the joint order. It creates the  
Commission on Child Abuse, consisting of 5 Legislators.

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The commission's charge is narrower than proposed in the  
original joint order. The commission shall examine the current  
policies and public and private programs and resources related to  
16 physical and sexual abuse of children. The commission may accept  
public testimony. The commission may identify means to  
18 coordinate the available programs and resources to prevent and  
respond to child abuse. The commission's report is due November  
20 1, 2000.