

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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H.P. 1930

DATE: April 24, 2000

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STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
119TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE 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.

When making the appointments, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall give preference to members from the following committees: the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services.

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

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

13           To this end, the commission may:

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

16                   1. Define the scope and nature of the problem of child  
17 abuse;

18                   2. Consider abuse of children who are now adults, with  
19 special emphasis on persons who, as children, were in  
20 the care or custody of the State;

21                   3. Identify public and private programs addressing  
22 child abuse and child abuse prevention;

23                   4. Identify public and private resources and potential  
24 resources to prevent and respond to child abuse;

25                   5. Identify public and private resources for support  
26 and treatment of victims of child abuse; and

27                   6. Identify means to coordinate the available programs  
28 and resources to prevent and respond to child abuse;

29           B. Consult with the following:

30                   1. Child abuse clinical experts;

31                   2. Medical care providers;

32                   3. Child abuse prevention specialists;

33                   4. Counselors and therapists with experience in  
34 treating child abuse;

35                   5. Teachers and guidance counselors;

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- 2                   6. District attorneys;
- 4                   7. Legal experts in child abuse prevention and  
6                   proceedings;
- 8                   8. The Commissioner of Human Services;
- 10                  9. The Attorney General; and
- 12                  10. Any other person that the commission determines  
14                  would be helpful to the commission's study; and
- 16                  C. Examine any other issues to further the purposes of the  
18                  study.
- 20                  **5. Staff assistance.** Upon approval of the Legislative  
22                  Council, the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis shall provide  
24                  necessary staffing services to the commission.
- 26                  **6. Compensation.** Members of the commission are entitled to  
28                  receive the legislative per diem as defined in the Maine Revised  
30                  Statutes, Title 3, section 2 and reimbursement for travel and  
32                  other necessary expenses for attendance at authorized meetings of  
34                  the commission.
- 36                  **7. Report.** The commission shall submit a report along with  
38                  any recommended legislation to the 120th Legislature no later  
                    than November 1, 2000. If the commission requires an extension  
                    of time to make its report, it may apply to the Legislative  
                    Council, which may grant the extension.
- 8. Commission budget.** The chairs of the commission, with  
                    assistance from the commission staff, shall administer the  
                    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  
                    incur expenses that would result in the commission's exceeding  
                    its approved budget. Upon request from the commission, the

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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 clarifies the  
appointment of members to the Commission to Study Child Abuse,  
clarifies that the first meeting must be called by June 30, 2000  
and clarifies that members will be compensated for attendance  
only at authorized meetings of the commission.

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SPONSORED BY: *Sen Charlie Pingree*  
(Senator PINGREE)

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COUNTY: Knox

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