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-	DATE: 4-26-99 (Filing No. H-273)
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6	HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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10	Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.
12	STATE OF MAINE
14	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
14	119TH LEGISLATURE
16	FIRST REGULAR SESSION
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	COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " \mathcal{H} " to H.P. 67, L.D. 80, Bill, "An Act
20	to Allow Foster Parents to Be Present When the Department of
	Human Services Meets with a Foster Child"
22	
. .	Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting
24	the following:
26	'An Act Regarding Foster Parents'
28	Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the
-	enacting clause and before the summary and inserting its place
30	the following:
32	'Sec. 1, 22 MRSA §4005-C, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 715, Pt.
	B, $\S 5$, is amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:
34	
36	The foster parent of a child, if any, and any preadoptive
30	parent or relative providing care for the child may attend a review or hearing in its entirety under this section unless
38	specifically excluded by decision of the presiding judge. This
	paragraph is repealed July 1, 2000.
40	
	Sec. 2. Report. By December 31, 1999, the Department of Human
42	Services shall report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health
	and Human Services on its experience with foster parents,
44	preadoptive parents and relatives providing care for foster
16	children, attending the entire proceedings of reviews and
46	hearings under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section

R. d. S.

Sec. 3. Departmental discretion. After consideration of the best interests of the child and any other factors, the Department of Human Services may decide to include the foster parent of a child when a representative of the department meets with the child. By December 31, 2000, the department shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters on its experience in including and excluding foster parents from meetings between representatives of the department and foster children.'

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

'FISCAL NOTE

The Department of Human Services will incur some minor additional costs to report to the Legislature on its experience with foster parents, preadoptive parents and relatives providing care for foster children attending the entire proceedings of reviews and hearings and to also report on the department's experience in including and excluding foster parents from meetings between representatives of the department and foster children. These costs can be absorbed within the department's existing budgeted resources.'

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill. It changes the title, inserts departmental discretion into the provision on foster parents attending meetings between the Department of Human Services and the children and adds a provision allowing, until July 1, 2000, foster parents, preadoptive parents and relatives providing care for children to attend reviews and hearings under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 4005-C unless specifically excluded by decision of the judge. It requires reports to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services on December 31, 1999 and December 31, 2000. It also adds a fiscal note to the bill.

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