

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

No. 86

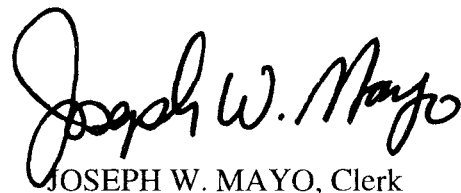
H.P. 73

House of Representatives, January 11, 1999

**An Act to Establish a Children's Bureau within the Executive Department to Serve the Department of Human Services, the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, the Department of Education and the Department of Corrections.**

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Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative LOVETT of Scarborough.  
Cosponsored by Senator MITCHELL of Penobscot and  
Representatives: BRAGDON of Bangor, BRENNAN of Portland, BROOKS of Winterport,  
KANE of Saco, QUINT of Portland, SNOWE-MELLO of Poland, Senator: PARADIS of  
Aroostook.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA Pt. 28** is enacted to read:

6 **PART 28**

8 **MAINE CHILDREN'S BUREAU**

10 **CHAPTER 601**

12 **MAINE CHILDREN'S BUREAU**

14 **§31101. Maine Children's Bureau**

16 **1. Establishment; composition.** The Governor shall  
18 establish within the Executive Department the Maine Children's  
20 Bureau, referred to in this section as "the bureau," to serve the  
22 Department of Human Services, the Department of Mental Health,  
24 Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, the Department  
of Corrections and the Department of Education, referred to in  
this section, as "the 4 departments." The commissioners of the 4  
departments shall employ and assign to the bureau such employees  
as are required to perform the duties of the bureau.

26 **2. Purpose.** The purpose of the bureau is to provide  
28 assigned staff to each open case within the jurisdiction of the  
bureau to provide information, referral and coordination services  
to the family and the 4 departments.

30 **3. Jurisdiction of the bureau.** The jurisdiction of the  
32 bureau includes all cases involving child abuse, child neglect  
34 and children's mental health and educational and juvenile  
corrections issues for children within the care or custody of the  
4 departments.

36 **4. Services.** The bureau shall provide services to children  
38 and families through a 24-hour toll-free telephone line and  
40 through assigned caseworkers. A caseworker or the caseworker's  
successor assigned as staff for a case is responsible for a case  
until its completion.

42 **SUMMARY**

44  
46 This bill establishes the Maine Children's Bureau within the  
48 Executive Department to serve the Department of Human Services,  
the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance  
Abuse Services, the Department of Corrections and the Department  
of Education. The bureau will provide care management services

2 in cases involving child abuse and neglect and children's mental health and educational and juvenile corrections issues for children within the care of the departments.