

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 474

S.P. 154

In Senate, January 14, 1999

An Act Relating to the Crime of Murder and to the Murder of Children.

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Joy J. O'Brien'.

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator PENDLETON of Cumberland.

Cosponsored by Representative AHEARNE of Madawaska and

Senators: BENOIT of Franklin, LONGLEY of Waldo, PARADIS of Aroostook, PINGREE of Knox, Representatives: DUNLAP of Old Town, KASPRZAK of Newport, O'NEIL of Saco, SULLIVAN of Biddeford.

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

Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §201, sub-§1, as repealed and replaced by PL 1977, c. 510, §38, is amended to read:

1. A person is guilty of murder if:

A. He ~~The person~~ intentionally or knowingly causes the death of another human being;

B. He ~~The person~~ engages in conduct ~~which that~~ manifests a depraved indifference to the value of human life and ~~which that~~ in fact causes the death of another human being; or

C. He ~~The person~~ intentionally or knowingly causes another human being to commit suicide by the use of force, duress or deception; or

D. ~~The person having the care and custody of a child 4 years of age or younger assaults the child by means of force that to a reasonable person would be likely to produce great bodily injury and that results in the child's death.~~

SUMMARY

This bill makes an assault of a child 4 years of age or younger that results in the child's death punishable as murder. Current law requires a sentence of imprisonment no less than 25 years for a conviction of murder.