

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 629

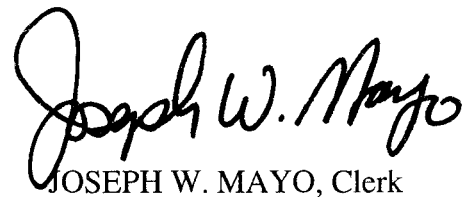
H.P. 466

House of Representatives, January 26, 1999

**An Act to Create a Seamless Treatment Plan for the Juvenile Offender
with Substance Abuse Problems.**

(EMERGENCY)

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


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative BAKER of Bangor.
Cosponsored by Senator MURRAY of Penobscot and
Representatives: BELANGER of Caribou, BROOKS of Winterport, MARTIN of Eagle Lake,
MAYO of Bath, POVICH of Ellsworth, SKOGLUND of St. George, SNOWE-MELLO of
Poland, Senator: FERGUSON of Oxford.

2 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not
become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted
as emergencies; and

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6 **Whereas,** substance abuse is a serious problem that affects
many juveniles who become part of the population of the
Department of Corrections; and

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10 **Whereas,** substance abuse treatment is a critical component
of the rehabilitative mission of juvenile corrections; and

12 **Whereas,** creating and implementing a comprehensive substance
abuse treatment plan as soon as possible is in the best interest
of the juveniles, as well as the public; and

16 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
safety; now, therefore,

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

24 **Sec. 1. Comprehensive substance abuse treatment program for**
juvenile offenders. The Department of Corrections and the
26 Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance
Abuse Services, Office of Substance Abuse shall take action to
28 create, implement and operate a comprehensive substance abuse
treatment program for juveniles committed to the department's
30 custody. The program must include uniform clinical assessment of
juveniles to identify substance abuse problems, to ensure access
32 to the program that facilitates participation of the juvenile and
the juvenile's family and to provide a system to monitor
34 treatment progress and a follow-through mechanism to ensure
treatment completion.

36 **Sec. 2. Staffing requirements and report.** The Department of
38 Corrections and the Department of Mental Health, Mental
Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, Office of Substance
40 Abuse shall present a proposal to implement and fund the
comprehensive substance abuse treatment program to the Joint
42 Standing Committee on Criminal Justice by May 1, 1999. The
proposal must include funding for at least 9 Regional Treatment
44 Alternative to Street Crime Substance Abuse Managers who must be
contracted with community treatment agencies. The proposal must
46 also include a plan for annual reporting to the Joint Standing
Committee on Criminal Justice on the progress in implementing and
48 providing juvenile substance abuse treatment programs.

50 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

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SUMMARY

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6 The bill directs the Department of Corrections and the
Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance
8 Abuse Services, Office of Substance Abuse to create, implement
and operate a comprehensive substance abuse treatment program for
10 juveniles. The program must include uniform clinical assessment
of juveniles to identify substance abuse problems, to ensure
12 access to a comprehensive substance abuse treatment program that
facilitates participation of the juvenile and the juvenile's
14 family and to provide a system to monitor treatment progress and
a follow-through mechanism to ensure treatment completion. The
16 bill requires the Department of Corrections and the Department of
Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services,
18 Office of Substance Abuse to prepare and present a proposal to
implement and fund a comprehensive substance abuse treatment
20 program to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice by
May 1, 1999. The proposal must include funding for at least 9
22 Regional Treatment Alternative to Street Crime Substance Abuse
Managers who must be contracted with community treatment
24 agencies. The bill also requires the proposal to include a plan
to make annual reports to the Joint Standing Committee on
26 Criminal Justice regarding the progress of juvenile substance
abuse treatment programs.