

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 942

H.P. 686

House of Representatives, February 3, 1999

An Act to Establish the Juvenile Division of the District Court.

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative GLYNN of South Portland.

Cosponsored by Representatives: PLOWMAN of Hampden, SCHNEIDER of Durham.

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

2
4 Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §184 is enacted to read:

6 §184. Juvenile Division of the District Court

8 1. Establishment; jurisdiction. There is established
10 within the District Court the Juvenile Division to provide
12 resolution of disputes involving juveniles and family members,
14 governmental service providers and institutions. The judges
16 within the Juvenile Division shall emphasize resolution of
18 disputes through mediation, behavior modification and equitable
20 remedies when possible.

22 2. Jurisdiction. The Juvenile Division has jurisdiction
24 over all matters involving juveniles not already within the
26 jurisdiction of the Family Division, including:

28 A. Proceedings under the Maine Juvenile Code;

30 B. Cases and controversies involving children in need of
32 services, including but not limited to mental health
34 services and mental retardation services;

36 C. Traffic offenses involving juveniles;

38 D. Emancipation proceedings;

40 E. Matters involving juveniles who are homeless or who
42 have run away from home; and

44 F. Any other matters involving juveniles as determined by
46 the Chief Judge.

48 3. Assignment of judges. The Chief Judge of the District
50 Court shall assign one or more judges to sit as judges
52 exclusively in the Juvenile Division. A judge assigned to sit in
54 the Juvenile Division must have interest, background, experience
56 and training in the areas within the jurisdiction of the Juvenile
58 Division.

60 4. Reports. The State Court Administrator shall keep
62 statistical records relating to the cases handled by the Juvenile
64 Division and report this information to the Supreme Judicial
66 Court annually and to the joint standing committee of the
68 Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters by January
70 15th of each odd-numbered calendar year. The State Court
72 Administrator shall evaluate the functioning of the Juvenile
74 Division in providing a system of justice that is responsive to
76 the needs of juveniles in light of the jurisdiction given to the
78 Juvenile Division under this section.

