MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1487

H.P. 1056

House of Representatives, February 23, 1999

An Act to Bring Equity into Custodial Agreements.

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

OSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative STANWOOD of Southwest Harbor. Cosponsored by Representative COLLINS of Wells.

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

Sec. 1. 19-A MRSA §1653, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 and affected by Pt. E, §2, is amended to read:

4. Equal consideration of parents. The court may not apply a preference for one parent over the other in determining parental rights and responsibilities because of the parent's gender or the child's age or gender. The court shall presume that an equal allocation of parental rights and responsibilities is in the best interest of the child, unless the parties agree otherwise.

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SUMMARY

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This bill creates a presumption in custody cases that an equal allocation of parental rights and responsibilities is in the best interest of the child.