

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

Reported by:

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**STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
119TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " A " to S.P. 555, L.D. 1617, Bill, "An Act to Improve Accountability in the Budget Process"

Amend the bill in section 2 in that part designated "~~§1585-A.~~" by striking out all of subsection 1 (page 1, lines 29 to 34 in L.D.) and inserting in its place the following:

'1. Children's programs. The following funds appropriated, allocated or transferred by the Legislature to children's programs may not be transferred by financial order to any nonchildren's program unless specifically authorized by the Legislature.'

Further amend the bill in section 2 in that part designated "~~§1585-A.~~" in subsection 2 in the first paragraph in the 2nd and 3rd lines (page 1, lines 37 and 38 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "children's programs" includes, but it not limited to," and inserting in its place the following: 'the term "children's programs" is limited to'

Further amend the bill in section 3 in the 5th line from the end (page 2, line 48 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "of the program and" and inserting in its place the following: 'and goals of the program, establish performance measures for the program and state'

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

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**FISCAL NOTE**

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This bill prohibits the transfer of funds by financial order from amounts appropriated or allocated to "children's programs", except to other children's programs, unless specifically authorized by the Legislature. To the extent that departments and agencies have used balances in "children's programs" to fund shortfalls in other programs, this prohibition may result in future additional requests for funding. These amounts can not be determined at this time.

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The Bureau of the Budget and the departments and agencies with "children's programs" will incur some minor additional costs to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. These costs can be absorbed within those agencies' existing budgeted resources.'

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**SUMMARY**

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This amendment is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. It removes the provision requiring unexpended balances in any children's programs to be carried forward. The amendment requires the report to include a statement about the goals of the program and the establishment of performance measures for the program.

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The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.