

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2000

Legislative Document

No. 2564

S.P. 999

In Senate, February 15, 2000

**An Act Regarding the Payment of Child Support in Cases of Delayed
Parental Notification.**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule
205.

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BERUBE of Androscoggin.
Cospponsored by Representative: SNOWE-MELLO of Poland.

2
3 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

4 **Sec. 1. 19-A MRSA §1554, first ¶,** as amended by PL 1997, c.
5 537, §17 and affected by §62, is further amended to read:

6 The father's liabilities for past education and support are
7 limited to the 6-year period preceding the commencement of an
8 action. If the father is initially unaware of paternity, then
9 his liabilities for past education and support are limited to the
10 portion of the 6-year period preceding the commencement of an
11 action after he receives knowledge or notice of paternity.

12 **Sec. 2. Relief from liability.** Notwithstanding the judgment of
13 the Lewiston District Court in State of Maine Department of Human
14 Services v. Richard Bell, No. 94-FM-240 (Me. Dist. Ct. 8, S.
15 And., Dec. 19, 1996) as affirmed by the Maine Supreme Judicial
16 Court in 1998 Me. 123, 711 A2d 1292, finding Richard Bell
17 responsible for child support in the amount of \$21,405, Richard
18 Bell is relieved of liability for any outstanding balance that
19 may remain pursuant to the judgment.

20 **Sec. 3. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated
21 from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

22
23 **2000-01**

24
25 **HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

26
27 **Division of Support Enforcement and Recovery**

28
29 All Other **\$21,405**

30
31 Provides funds up to \$21,405 to reimburse
32 Richard Bell for payments he made to the
33 Department of Human Services for liabilities
34 for past education and support of Stephen J.
35 Furbish, born May 4, 1977, incurred by Mr.
36 Bell for the period from March 16, 1988 to
37 March 15, 1994.

38
39
40
41 **SUMMARY**

42
43 Under current law, a father is responsible for liabilities
44 for past education and support retroactively up to 6 years even
45 if the father did not know he was the father. This bill limits a
46 father's liabilities for past education and support for only the
47 portion of the retroactive 6-year period after he receives
48 knowledge or notice of paternity.

2 This bill also provides relief to Richard Bell for child
support arrearage he had incurred under current law for a child
he did not know existed.