

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 683

H.P. 528

House of Representatives, February 13, 2001

**An Act to Allow Godparents as Intervenors in Child Custody Cases with
the Department of Human Services.**

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative SHERMAN of Hodgdon.

Cosponsored by Representatives: DESMOND of Mapleton, FOSTER of Gray, HASKELL of
Milford, JACOBS of Turner, LEMOINE of Old Orchard Beach, PEAVEY of Woolwich,
QUINT of Portland, Senator: FERGUSON of Oxford.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4005-D** is enacted to read:

6 **§4005-D. Godparent's right to standing and intervenor status in
child protection proceedings**

8 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the
10 context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the
following meanings.

12 **A. "Godparent"** means a person who has been designated as a
14 child's godparent by that child's parent or guardian.

16 **2. Petition.** A godparent may petition for standing and
intervenor status in any child protection proceeding under this
18 chapter regarding a godchild. The standing and intervenor status
is limited to that proceeding unless otherwise ordered by the
20 court.

22 **3. Criteria.** The court shall make a determination whether
to grant standing based on the strength and duration of the
24 relationship between the godparent and the child and the best
interests of the child.

26 **SUMMARY**

28 This bill extends intervenor status to godparents in any
30 child protection proceeding.