

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 836

H.P. 636

House of Representatives, February 15, 2001

An Act to Grant Foster Parents Intervenor Status in Child Protection Proceedings.

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative BOWLES of Sanford.
Cosponsored by Senator LaFOUNTAIN of York and
Representatives: LABRECQUE of Gorham, LAVERRIERE-BOUCHER of Biddeford, NASS
of Acton, O'BRIEN of Augusta, STEDMAN of Hartland, SULLIVAN of Biddeford, Senator:
CARPENTER of York.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4005-A**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 343, §1,
is further amended to read:

6 **§4005-A. Foster parent's right to standing and intervenor status**
8 **in child protection proceedings**

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

12 A. "Foster parent" means a person who has had a child in
14 that person's home for at least 120 60 days and who has
received a license for a family foster home as defined in
16 section 8101, subsection 3, or who is a relative.

18 **2. Status.** A foster parent ~~may petition for~~ has standing
and intervenor status in any child protection proceeding under
20 this chapter regarding a foster child that lives or has lived in
the foster parent's home. ~~The standing and intervenor status is~~
22 ~~limited to that proceeding unless otherwise ordered by the court.~~

24 ~~**3. Criteria.** The court shall make a determination whether~~
26 ~~to grant standing based on the strength and duration of the~~
~~relationship between the foster parents and the child and in the~~
~~best interests of the child.~~

28
30 **SUMMARY**

32 Currently, a court may grant intervenor status to a foster
parent if the child has been in the foster parent's home for at
34 least 120 days. This bill gives intervenor status to a foster
parent who has had the child who is the subject of a child
36 protection proceeding in the foster parent's home for at least 60
days.