

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1074

H.P. 820

House of Representatives, February 22, 2001

**An Act to Require that any Proceedings Initiated by the Department of
Human Services to Terminate Parental Rights Be Open.**

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative O'BRIEN of Augusta.

Cosponsored by Representatives: DUGAY of Cherryfield, MADORE of Augusta.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4054**, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 733, §18, is
amended to read:

6 **§4054. Hearing on termination petition**

8 The court shall hold a hearing prior to making a termination
10 order. Except as otherwise provided by law, the hearing is open
to the public unless a parent of the child objects.

12 **SUMMARY**

14 This bill requires that hearings on petitions to terminate
16 parental rights in child protection proceedings must be open to
the public unless a parent of the child objects.

18