

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 956

H.P. 713

House of Representatives, February 25, 2003

An Act To Improve the Procedure for Locating Runaway Children

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative SMITH of Monmouth.
Cosponsored by Senator MARTIN of Aroostook and
Representatives: BLANCHETTE of Bangor, MAKAS of Lewiston, O'BRIEN of Augusta,
SAMPSON of Auburn, SNOWE-MELLO of Poland, SUSLOVIC of Portland, THOMPSON of
China, WALCOTT of Lewiston.

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

2
4 Sec. 1. 15 MRSA §3501, sub-§10 is enacted to read:

6 10. Law enforcement responsibility. If a juvenile in the
8 custody of the Department of Human Services has been placed in
10 interim care that includes temporary shelter and runs away from
12 that placement, the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction
14 where the temporary shelter is located is responsible for finding
16 the juvenile. If that law enforcement agency does not locate
18 that juvenile within 48 hours after receiving notice that the
20 juvenile has run away, the responsibility for finding the
22 juvenile reverts to the law enforcement agency in the
24 jurisdiction of the juvenile's legal residence.

SUMMARY

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20 This bill specifies that if a juvenile in the custody of the
22 Department of Human Services runs away from an interim care
24 placement that includes temporary shelter, the law enforcement
26 agency in the jurisdiction from which the juvenile has run away
is responsible for finding that juvenile. The bill further
specifies that, if that law enforcement agency does not locate
the juvenile within 48 hours, the responsibility reverts to the
law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction of the juvenile's
legal residence.