

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

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Legislative Document

No. 488

H.P. 372

House of Representatives, February 1, 2007

### An Act To Amend the Child Support Laws

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Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative EDGECOMB of Caribou. (BY REQUEST)  
Cosponsored by Senator ROSEN of Hancock and  
Representatives: CARTER of Bethel, HOGAN of Old Orchard Beach, JACKSON of Allagash,  
Senator: McCORMICK of Kennebec.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 19-A MRSA §1653, sub-§8, ¶A**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2  
3 and affected by Pt. E, §2, is amended to read:

4 A. Either parent of a minor child shall contribute reasonable and just sums as child  
5 support payable ~~weekly~~ **biweekly**, monthly or quarterly. In an action filed under  
6 section 1654, the court may require the child's nonprimary care provider to pay past  
7 support. Availability of public welfare benefits to the family may not affect the  
8 decision of the court as to the responsibility of a parent to provide child support. The  
9 court shall inquire of the parties concerning the existence of a child support order  
10 entered pursuant to chapter 65, subchapter ~~H~~ **2**, article 3. If an order exists, the court  
11 shall consider its terms in establishing a child support obligation. A determination or  
12 modification of child support under this section and a determination of past support  
13 must comply with chapter 63.

14 **Sec. 2. 19-A MRSA §2006, sub-§5, ¶F** is enacted to read:

15 F. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the child support obligation for the  
16 party with whom the child is living for a period of at least 7 days is reduced in an  
17 amount commensurate with the time the child lives with that party.

18 **SUMMARY**

19 This bill amends the child support laws in 2 ways. First, this bill revises the payment  
20 schedule of child support from weekly payments to biweekly payments. Second, it  
21 eliminates the requirement that child support be paid during the time the child is living  
22 with the child support obligor, as long as that time period is at least 7 days.