

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2008

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Legislative Document

No. 2037

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H.P. 1421

House of Representatives, December 21, 2007

### An Act To Provide Support for At-risk Youth

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 19, 2007. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative PERRY of Calais.  
Cosponsored by Senator BRANNIGAN of Cumberland and  
Representatives: CONOVER of Oakland, FAIRCLOTH of Bangor, PINGREE of North  
Haven, PRIEST of Brunswick.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 15 MRSA §3509** is enacted to read:

3 **§3509. At-risk youth program**

4 The Juvenile Court shall implement an at-risk youth program to address punishment  
5 and proactive treatment of certain juveniles in accordance with this section.

6 **1. Filing of petitions to enroll in program.** A parent, a school official, the  
7 Department of Health and Human Services, a guardian ad litem or other legal advocate  
8 may file a petition with the Juvenile Court to enroll a juvenile in the at-risk youth  
9 program when the juvenile:

10 A. On a regular basis, leaves the care of the juvenile's parents, guardian or legal  
11 custodian without that person's consent;

12 B. Is habitually truant. For purposes of this paragraph, "habitually truant" has the  
13 same meaning as in Title 20-A, section 5051-A; or

14 C. On a regular basis, exhibits such disruptive behavior at home or at school, or both,  
15 that the health, safety or welfare of the juvenile or any other person may be  
16 endangered.

17 **2. Program agreement.** Upon acceptance into the at-risk youth program, a  
18 participating juvenile must enter into a program agreement and may be required to appear  
19 before the Juvenile Court.

20 **SUMMARY**

21 This bill creates a program within the Juvenile Court to address punishment and  
22 proactive treatment of at-risk youth. Petitions for the program may be filed by a parent, a  
23 school official, the Department of Health and Human Services, a guardian ad litem or  
24 other legal advocate when a juvenile regularly runs away from home, exhibits extremely  
25 disruptive behavior or is habitually truant.