MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 1216

S.P. 449

In Senate, March 26, 2009

An Act To Strengthen the Kinship Preference in Child Welfare Residential Placement

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator PERRY of Penobscot.

1	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
2 3	Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4062, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 382, §1, is amended to read:
4 5 6 7 8	4. Kinship preference. In the residential placement of a child, the department shall consider giving give preference to an adult relative over a nonrelated caregiver when determining placement for a child, as long as the related caregiver meets all relevant state child protection standards and there is no evidence that the caregiver or the environment is unfit.
9	SUMMARY
10 11	This bill strengthens the preference for placement with adult relatives over nonrelated caregivers in child welfare placement of a child.