

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2012

Legislative Document

No. 1633

H.P. 1223

House of Representatives, December 20, 2011

An Act To Increase to a Class C Crime the Failure To Report a Missing Child within 24 Hours

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

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 16, 2011. Referred to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Clerk

Presented by Representative OLSEN of Phippsburg.
Cosponsored by Representatives: MAKER of Calais, McCABE of Skowhegan,
TIMBERLAKE of Turner, Senator THIBODEAU of Waldo and
Representatives: ESPLING of New Gloucester, SANDERSON of Chelsea, VOLK of
Scarborough, Senators: LANGLEY of Hancock, MASON of Androscoggin, SNOWE-MELLO
of Androscoggin.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §558** is enacted to read:

3 **§558. Failure to report a missing child**

4 1. A person is guilty of failure to report a missing child if that person, being the
5 parent, foster parent, guardian or other person having care or custody of a child,
6 knowingly fails to notify a law enforcement agency of the child's disappearance within 24
7 hours of becoming aware that the child is missing when that person:

8 A. Knows that the child is missing; and

9 B. Knows or reasonably should know that the child is potentially in danger.

10 2. Failure to report a missing child is a Class C crime.

11 **SUMMARY**

12 This bill, modeled after "Caylee's Law," introduced in the State of Florida, makes
13 failing to report a missing child within 24 hours of becoming aware that the child is
14 missing a Class C crime.