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S.P. 431

In Senate, March 27, 2013

Resolve, Directing the Department of Corrections To Amend Its Rules Pertaining to Certification of Batterer Intervention Programs

(EMERGENCY)

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

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DAREK M. GRANT Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CAIN of Penobscot. (GOVERNOR'S BILL) Cosponsored by Representative FREDETTE of Newport. 1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not 2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

- 3 **Whereas,** the Department of Corrections, acting pursuant to the Maine Revised 4 Statutes, Title 19-A, section 4014, has adopted rules establishing standards and 5 procedures for certification of batterer intervention programs; and
- 6 **Whereas,** in the process of sentencing persons convicted of crimes of domestic 7 violence, courts may order those offenders to attend batterer intervention programs that 8 the Department of Corrections has certified; and
- Whereas, a recent decision of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court in the case of <u>State</u>
 <u>v. Mosher</u>, 2012 ME 133, has cast doubt on the validity of the Department of Correction's
 current rules for certification of batterer intervention programs because the current rules
 appear to limit certification to those programs serving male domestic violence offenders;
 and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

- 18 Sec. 1. Adoption of emergency rules. Resolved: That, notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 19-A, section 4014, the Department of Corrections shall 19 20 adopt emergency rules pursuant to Title 5, section 8054 to amend the current rules to make them gender neutral so that batterer intervention programs that serve female 21 22 domestic violence offenders may be certified, and courts may be provided the opportunity 23 to order female offenders convicted of crimes of domestic violence to participate in 24 certified batterer intervention programs. Following adoption of the emergency rules, the 25 Department of Corrections shall initiate nonemergency rulemaking on certified batterer 26 intervention programs pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375. Notwithstanding Title 19-A, 27 section 4014, all rules or amendments to rules on the subject of the certification of batterer intervention programs, regardless of which gender a program serves, are 28 29 considered routine technical rules as defined by Title 5, section 8071.
- 30 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this 31 legislation takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

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This resolve directs the Department of Corrections to adopt emergency rules, to be followed by nonemergency rulemaking, to ensure gender equality in terms of the certification of certified batterer intervention programs. In a December 2012 decision, the Maine Supreme Judicial Court cast doubt on the validity of current rules that were written in terms of batterer intervention programs for male offenders only.