

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: *6/9/2017*

(Filing No. S-*240*)

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
128TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 335,
L.D. 472, Bill, "An Act Regarding Parental Rights"

Amend the amendment by striking out all of section 1 (page 1, lines 13 to 25 in
amendment) and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4003-A is enacted to read:

§4003-A. Rights of parents

1. Parents joint natural guardians of children. The parents are the joint natural
guardians of their minor children and are jointly entitled to the care, custody, control,
services and earnings of their children. Neither parent has any rights paramount to the
rights of the other with reference to any matter affecting their children.

2. Fundamental liberty interest. A parent has a fundamental liberty interest in
directing the care, custody and control of the parent's child.

3. Government interference. The State or any political subdivision of the State
may not infringe the liberty interest in subsection 2 unless that infringement is justified by
a compelling state interest and narrowly tailored to achieve that compelling state interest
through the least restrictive means necessary.'

SUMMARY

This amendment amends Committee Amendment "A" to enact the language outlining
the rights of parents in that portion of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22 that governs
child and family services and child protection rather than in Title 19-A, which governs
domestic relations.

SPONSORED BY: *Spä Keim*

(Senator KEIM)

COUNTY: Oxford

SENATE AMENDMENT