

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 530

H.P. 374

House of Representatives, February 9, 2017

An Act To Ensure Medical Assessments for Youth in Foster Care

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative HAMANN of South Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot and
Representatives: HEAD of Bethel, MADIGAN of Waterville, PERRY of Calais, PIERCE of
Falmouth, Senators: BREEN of Cumberland, MAKER of Washington.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4063-A**, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 194, is amended to read:

3 **§4063-A. Medical and psychological examination; provision of medical information**

4 **1. Physical examination required.** The department shall ensure that a child ordered
5 into its custody receives an appointment for a medical examination by a licensed
6 physician or nurse practitioner within ~~10~~ 3 working days after the department's custody of
7 the child commences.

8 **2. Psychological assessment.** If the physician or nurse practitioner who performs a
9 physical examination pursuant to subsection 1 determines that a psychological assessment
10 of the child is appropriate, the department shall ensure that an appointment is obtained for
11 such an assessment within 30 days of the physical examination.

12 **3. Provision of medical information.** When a child ordered into the department's
13 custody is placed in a foster home, the department shall provide to the foster parents an
14 overview of the child's medical condition and the name and contact information of the
15 child's health care provider at the time of placement, to the extent known by the
16 department. The department shall provide to foster parents information regarding the
17 scheduling of the child's medical examination required pursuant to subsection 1.

18 **SUMMARY**

19 This bill requires that, when a child is ordered into the custody of the Department of
20 Health and Human Services, the department must provide to the foster home in which the
21 child is placed an overview of the child's medical condition and the name and contact
22 information of the child's health care provider at the time of placement. The bill also
23 requires the department to ensure that a child receives an appointment for a medical
24 examination within 3 working days of when the department's custody commences,
25 instead of within 10 days as in current law, and requires that the department inform the
26 foster parents of the appointment.