

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

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Legislative Document

No. 471

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H.P. 356

House of Representatives, January 29, 2019

**An Act To Amend the Child and Family Services and Child  
Protection Act To Require the Department of Health and Human  
Services To Make Best Efforts To Prevent Removal of a Child from  
a Home**

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

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative HYMANSON of York.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: MADIGAN of Waterville, PIERCE of Falmouth,  
SYLVESTER of Portland, TALBOT ROSS of Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4003, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 470, §1, is further  
3 amended to read:

4 **3. Rehabilitation and reunification as a priority.** Require that ~~reasonable~~ best  
5 efforts be made to rehabilitate and reunify families as a means for protecting the welfare  
6 of children, but prevent needless delay for permanent plans for children when  
7 rehabilitation and reunification is not possible;

8 **SUMMARY**

9 This bill amends the Child and Family Services and Child Protection Act to require  
10 that best efforts, rather than reasonable efforts, be made by the Department of Health and  
11 Human Services to rehabilitate and reunify families as a means of protecting the welfare  
12 of children.