

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 856

H.P. 630

House of Representatives, February 14, 2019

An Act To Give Probate Judges Latitude in Permitting Visitation by Grandparents

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative RILEY of Jay.
Cosponsored by Representatives: CROCKETT of Portland, CUDDY of Winterport,
SKOLFIELD of Weld, Senator: WOODSOME of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 19-A MRSA §1803, sub-§2, ¶D,** as amended by PL 2005, c. 360, §3, is
3 further amended to read:

4 D. If the court's determination under paragraph C is in the affirmative, the court may
5 appoint a guardian ad litem as provided in section 1507. The court shall hold a
6 hearing on the grandparent's petition for reasonable rights of visitation or access and
7 shall consider any objections the parents or legal guardians may have concerning the
8 award of rights of visitation or access to the grandparent. The court may award
9 reasonable rights of visitation or access to the grandparent regardless of objections
10 the parents or legal guardians may have concerning the award of rights of visitation
11 or access. If the court has appointed a guardian ad litem, the court shall also consider
12 the report of the guardian ad litem. The standard for the award of reasonable rights of
13 visitation or access is provided in subsection 3.

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This bill authorizes a court to award a grandparent reasonable rights of visitation or
16 access to a minor child regardless of objections the parents or legal guardians may have
17 concerning the award of rights of visitation or access.