

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1460

H.P. 1076

House of Representatives, April 12, 2021

**An Act To Revise the Department of Health and Human Services
Rehabilitation and Reunification Process**

Received by the Clerk of the House on April 8, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative McCREA of Fort Fairfield.

Cosponsored by Representative: MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth, Senator: MAXMIN of Lincoln.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4041, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

3 **4. Evaluation and progress meeting.** Within 6 months of an order finding jeopardy
4 under section 4035, subsection 4-A, the department shall convene a meeting with all
5 parents and the guardian ad litem of the child and all other interested parties to evaluate
6 efforts and progress made on performing or achievement of elements of a rehabilitation
7 and reunification plan under subsection 1-A, paragraph A, subparagraph (1), division (c).
8 A statement made or information given during the meeting is confidential and may not be
9 admitted or used against a party in any judicial or administrative proceeding. The
10 department shall provide notice of the meeting to all interested parties, and a party's failure
11 to appear at the meeting after receiving notice and without good cause is admissible against
12 the party in an administrative or judicial proceeding under this chapter.

13 **SUMMARY**

14 This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to convene a meeting
15 with all parents and the guardian ad litem of a child and other interested parties in a matter
16 involving a child placed in foster care to evaluate efforts and progress made on performing
17 or achievement of elements under a rehabilitation and reunification plan for the child within
18 6 months of an order of jeopardy issued by the court. Any statement or information given
19 during the meeting is confidential and inadmissible in any administrative or judicial
20 proceeding. The department is required to give notice of the meeting to all interested
21 parties, and a party's failure to appear at the meeting after receiving notice and without
22 good cause may be used against the party in an administrative or judicial proceeding.