

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2022

Legislative Document

No. 1834

S.P. 651

In Senate, December 22, 2021

An Act To Establish Ongoing Monitoring of Maine's Child Protective Services

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 20, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator DIAMOND of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative MILLETT of Waterford and
Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot, BENNETT of Oxford, CURRY of Waldo, LIBBY of
Androscoggin, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representative: McDONALD of Stonington.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §994, sub-§11**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 104, §2, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **11. Information available to committee.** To receive certain information.
5 Information that is made available to the committee is governed by chapter 21, which
6 governs legislative investigating committees, and by Title 1, chapter 13, which governs
7 public records and proceedings; ~~and~~

8 **Sec. 2. 3 MRSA §994, sub-§12**, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 104, §3, is amended to
9 read:

10 **12. Immediate review system.** To establish a system to provide immediate review of
11 a program or function of a state agency or other entity in the event that there is a suspicion
12 of a major mismanagement of public funds or functions. If the director determines to
13 proceed under the immediate review system and the committee approves proceeding under
14 that system, qualified auditors and investigators may be retained by the director for that
15 purpose. The director shall coordinate efforts with the Attorney General, State Auditor,
16 State Controller and others considered appropriate by the director; and

17 **Sec. 3. 3 MRSA §994, sub-§13** is enacted to read:

18 **13. Safety of children in state care.** To create a system designed to monitor, on an
19 ongoing basis, the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family
20 Services regarding the effectiveness of the office in protecting the safety of children in state
21 care. The committee may create a working group that has the purposes of monitoring the
22 policies and practices used by the office to maintain the safety of children in state care,
23 reporting to the committee on a quarterly basis and providing an annual report to the
24 committee and the Legislature.

25 **SUMMARY**

26 This bill requires the Government Oversight Committee to create a system designed to
27 monitor, on an ongoing basis, the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of
28 Child and Family Services regarding the effectiveness of the office in protecting the safety
29 of children in state care. The committee may create a working group that has the purposes
30 of monitoring the policies and practices used by the office to maintain the safety of children
31 in state care, reporting to the committee on a quarterly basis and providing an annual report
32 to the committee and the Legislature.