

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

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**STATE OF MAINE**

**SENATE**

**131ST LEGISLATURE**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 354, L.D. 857, "An Act to Improve Family Team Meetings in Child Welfare Cases to Ensure Better Outcomes for Children by Providing Adequate Funding"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

**'Resolve, to Establish a Process to Evaluate the Family Team Meeting Model'**

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

**'Sec. 1. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services to evaluate family team meeting model. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services shall contract with an independent entity to develop a system for the evaluation of the family team meeting model that is used as part of the department's child and family services policy including family team meeting policy and facilitated family team meeting policy. The contracted entity shall submit a report, no later than January 2, 2026, to the Department of Health and Human Services and the Maine Child Welfare Advisory Panel established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 4010-D. The contracted entity shall develop a system of evaluation that includes the following:

1. A process for ongoing data collection and analysis that includes case review and family team meeting participant input;

2. The use of data to evaluate the extent that current family team meeting practices reflect the requirements in the child and family services policy; and

3. A process for implementing the data collection and use in subsections 1 and 2 and a plan for continuous quality improvement of the family team meeting model.

**Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

**IV-E Foster Care/Adoption Assistance 0137**

1 Initiative: Provides one-time funding over 2 years to contract with an independent entity to  
2 develop a system for the evaluation of the family team meeting model in the department's  
3 child and family services policy. The contracted entity must submit a report, no later than  
4 January 2, 2026, to the Department of Health and Human Services and the Maine Child  
5 Welfare Advisory Panel.

6	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
7	All Other	\$0	\$171,190
8			
9	<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$171,190</u>

10

11 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section  
12 number to read consecutively.

13

**SUMMARY**

14 This amendment replaces the bill, which is a concept draft, with a resolve. It requires  
15 the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services to  
16 contract with an independent entity to develop a system for the evaluation of the family  
17 team meeting model in the department's child and family services policy. The contracted  
18 entity must submit a report, no later than January 2, 2026, to the Department of Health and  
19 Human Services and the Maine Child Welfare Advisory Panel.

20

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

21

(See attached)



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 857

LR 566(02)

## An Act to Improve Family Team Meetings in Child Welfare Cases to Ensure Better Outcomes for Children by Providing Adequate Funding

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "*ALS 632*"

Committee: Health and Human Services

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

### Fiscal Note

	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	Projections FY 2025-26	Projections FY 2026-27
<b>Net Cost (Savings)</b>				
General Fund	\$0	\$171,190	\$171,190	\$0
<b>Appropriations/Allocations</b>				
General Fund	\$0	\$171,190	\$171,190	\$0

#### Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill includes a one-time General Fund appropriation to the Department of Health and Human Services of \$171,190 in fiscal year 2024-25 to contract with an independent entity to develop a system for the evaluation of the family team meeting model in the department's Child and Family Services Policy. The contracted entity must submit a report, no later than January 2, 2026, to the Department of Health and Human Services and the Maine Child Welfare Advisory Panel. The total funding required for the contract is \$342,380, but the funding is split over the two years of the contracted work.