

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1275

S.P. 512

In Senate, March 21, 2023

**An Act to Clarify the Powers of the Government Oversight
Committee and Enable Committee Access to Department of Health
and Human Services Documents Related to Investigations of Child
Deaths**

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested 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 NANGLE of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot, LAWRENCE of York.

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~~ Except as provided in subsection 11-A, information that is made available to
6 the committee is governed by chapter 21, which governs legislative investigating
7 committees, and by Title 1, chapter 13, which governs public records and proceedings; ~~and~~

8 **Sec. 2. 3 MRSA §994, sub-§11-A** is enacted to read:

9 **11-A. Information relating to child death investigation.** To receive documents from
10 the Department of Health and Human Services relating to an investigation of the death of
11 a child with previous department involvement, including any information in the possession
12 of the department regarding contact or other involvement with the child. Notwithstanding
13 any provision of law to the contrary, documents received by the committee under this
14 subsection are confidential; and

15 **SUMMARY**

16 This bill provides that the Government Oversight Committee has access to documents
17 in the possession of the Department of Health and Human Services relating to an
18 investigation of the death of a child with previous department involvement, including any
19 information regarding department contact or other involvement with the child, and that
20 those documents are exempt from public disclosure.