

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY - SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 146

S. P. 197

In Senate, January 24, 1935.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary, sent down for concurrence and 500 copies ordered printed.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Burkett of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
THIRTY-FIVE

**AN ACT to Amend Section 37 of Chapter 80 of the Revised Statutes
Relating to Proceedings in the Probate Court.**

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

R. S., c. 80, § 37, amended. Section 37 of chapter 80 of the revised statutes is hereby repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

‘Sec. 37. Proceedings in the probate court. Upon the filing of a petition for the adoption of a minor child the court may in its discretion notify the state bureau of social welfare. It shall then be the duty of the bureau, either through its own workers or through a delegated agency, to verify the allegations of the petition; to investigate the conditions and antecedents of the child for the purpose of ascertaining whether he is a proper subject for adoption; and to make appropriate inquiry to determine whether the proposed home is suitable for the child. This information shall, as soon as practicable, be submitted by the bureau to the court in writing with a recommendation as to the granting of the petition. Thereupon, if the judge is satisfied of the identity and relations of the parties; of the ability of the petitioners to bring up and educate the child properly, having reference to the degree and condition of his parents, and of the fitness and propriety of such adoption, he shall make a decree, setting forth the facts, and declaring that from that date such child is the child of the petitioners, and that

his name is thereby changed, without requiring public notice thereof. The court may require that the child shall live for one year in the home of the petitioners under the supervision of the bureau of social welfare or a licensed child placing agency pending the granting of the petition. An attested copy of the certificate of adoption shall forthwith be filed by the court with the town clerk of the town wherein the child was born and with the bureau of vital statistics and any certificate of the birth of such child thereafter issued shall be issued in accordance with the facts contained in the certificate of adoption.'