

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - S E V E N T H   L E G I S L A T U R E

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Legislative Document

No. 683

S. P. 251

In Senate, February 10, 1955

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

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

Presented by Senator Reid of Kennebec.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FIFTY-FIVE

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**AN ACT** Relating to the Uniform Civil Liability for Support Act.

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

**R. S., c. 167-A, additional.** The revised statutes are hereby amended by adding thereto a new chapter to be numbered 167-A, to read as follows :

**'CHAPTER 167-A.**

**Uniform Civil Liability for Support Act.**

**Sec. 1. Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise :

"Child" means a son or daughter under the age of 21 years and a son or daughter of whatever age who is incapacitated from earning a living and without sufficient means.

"Obligee" means any person to whom a duty of support is owed.

"Obligor" means any person owing a duty of support.

"Parent" includes either a natural parent or an adoptive parent.

"State" includes any state, territory or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

**Sec. 2. Man's duty of support.** Every man shall support his wife and his child; and his parent when in need.

**Sec. 3. Woman's duty of support.** Every woman shall support her child; and her husband and her parent when in need.

Sec. 4. Extent of duties of support. An obligor present or resident in this State has the duty of support as defined in this chapter regardless of the presence or residence of the obligee.

Sec. 5. Jurisdiction. The Superior Court shall have jurisdiction of all proceedings brought under this chapter.

Sec. 6. Amount of support. When determining the amount due for support the court shall consider all relevant factors including but not limited to:

- I. The standard of living and situation of the parties;
- II. The relative wealth and income of the parties;
- III. The ability of the obligor to earn;
- IV. The ability of the obligee to earn;
- V. The need of the obligee;
- VI. The age of the parties;
- VII. The responsibility of the obligor for the support of others.

Sec. 7. Modification of order. The court shall retain jurisdiction to modify or vacate the order of support where justice requires.

Sec. 8. Enforcement of rights. The obligee may enforce his right of support against the obligor and the State or any political subdivision thereof may proceed on behalf of the obligee to enforce his right of support against the obligor. Whenever the State or a political subdivision thereof furnishes support to an obligee, it has the same right as the obligee to whom the support was furnished, for the purpose of securing reimbursement and of obtaining continuing support.

Sec. 9. Appeals. Appeals may be taken from orders under this chapter as in other civil actions.

Sec. 10. Evidence of husband and wife. Laws attaching a privilege against the disclosure of communications between husband and wife are inapplicable under this chapter. Husband and wife are competent witnesses to testify to any relevant matter, including marriage and parentage.

Sec. 11. Rights additional to those now existing. The rights herein created are in addition to and not in substitution for any other rights.

Sec. 12. Uniformity of interpretation. This chapter shall be so interpreted and construed as to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the law of those states which enact it.

Sec. 13. Short title. This chapter may be cited as the Uniform Civil Liability for Support Act.'