

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
HUMAN RESOURCES
BILL SUMMARY



JULY, 1985

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ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
JULY 1985

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature, covering the First Regular Session of the 112th Legislature. The summaries are arranged by LD number and indexed separately by committee.

LD:

686

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FAMILY COUNSELING AND
LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN CASES OF ALLEGED CHILD
ABUSE OR NEGLECT

ROLDE
NAJARIAN

ONTP

HOUSE Accepted Committee Report
SENATE Accepted Committee Report
GOV

H-165

HA

BRODEUR

SUMMARY:

The original bill required notice to the parents or custodian of children who are the reported subject of child abuse, specifying the nature of the complaint to be investigated, the procedure to be followed in the investigation and the possible determinations that may result, including the consequences of those determinations. It also provided for counsel to be appointed for indigent parents or custodians at the onset of an investigation if they so choose.

The majority of the committee recommended the bill 'ought not to pass' after they had reviewed a draft of a parents handbook being prepared by the Department of Human Services. The handbook will advise parents of the possible consequences that could result from intervention in their family life by a child protective case worker. A minority report recommended passage of the bill.

A House Amendment (H-165) sought to authorize the Department of Human Services to advise the parents of the nature of an investigation in the first interview with the parents, in accordance with the department's present practice and policy and further provided that counsel may be appointed for indigent parents after they have been notified of the department's investigation. The amendment was not introduced since the House accepted the ONTP report.

LD:

716

AN ACT CONCERNING THE REMOVAL OF CHILD
ABUSERS FROM THE HOUSEHOLD

NELSON
HOGLUND

ND: 1373

OTP-ND

HOUSE Accepted Committee Report
SENATE Accepted Committee Report
GOV

SUMMARY:

This bill allowed the court to order, in either a preliminary or final order, removal of a child abuser from the home rather than removal of the child under the Child and Family Services and Child Protection Act. The committee presented a new draft (LD 1373) which was finally enacted.