



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 145

H.P. 120

House of Representatives, January 31, 2013

**An Act To Ensure Adequate Child Protective Services throughout
the State**

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative FREDETTE of Newport.
Cosponsored by Senator KATZ of Kennebec and
Representative: DAVIS of Sangerville, Senator: CAIN of Penobscot.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4003, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 731, Pt. AA, §4, is
3 further amended to read:

4 **4. Permanent plans for care and custody.** Promote the early establishment of
5 permanent plans for the care and custody of children who cannot be returned to their
6 family. It is the intent of the Legislature that the department reduce the number of
7 children receiving assistance under the United States Social Security Act, Title IV-E, who
8 have been in foster care more than 24 months, by 10% each year beginning with the
9 federal fiscal year that starts on October 1, 1983; ~~and~~

10 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4003, sub-§5**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 731, Pt. AA, §5, is
11 amended to read:

12 **5. Report.** Require the department to report monthly to the joint standing
13 committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs
14 and health and human services matters, beginning in July 2000, on the status of children
15 served by the Bureau of Child and Family Services. The report must include, at a
16 minimum, information on the department's caseload, the location of the children in the
17 department's custody and the number of cases of abuse and neglect that were not opened
18 for assessment. This information must be identified by program and funding source; ~~and~~

19 **Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §4003, sub-§6** is enacted to read:

20 **6. Office in each county.** Require the department to establish in each county at least
21 one office with appropriate staff to provide services under this chapter. For purposes of
22 this subsection, "office" does not include an office contained in or attached to a motor
23 vehicle or otherwise designed to be mobile.

24 **SUMMARY**

25 This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to establish in each
26 county of the State at least one office with appropriate staff to provide child protective
27 services.