



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2026

Legislative Document

No. 2021

H.P. 1351

House of Representatives, December 5, 2025

An Act to Add an Online Option for Reporting of Suspected Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of Adults

Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 3, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MEYER of Eliot.

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3477, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2003, c. 653, §10, is further amended to read:

2. Reports. Reports regarding abuse, neglect or exploitation must be made immediately ~~by telephone~~ to the department either by telephone or by an online portal designated by the department and must be followed by a written report within 48 hours if requested by the department. The reports must contain the name and address of the involved adult; information regarding the nature and extent of the abuse, neglect or exploitation; the source of the report; and the name of the person making the report; that person's occupation; and where that person can be contacted. The report may contain any other information that the reporter believes may be helpful.

SUMMARY

Current law requires that reports to the Department of Health and Human Services regarding abuse, neglect or exploitation of adults must be made by telephone. This bill adds the option of reporting by an online portal to align state law with federal regulations promulgated in June 2024 that require states to allow at least 2 methods of reporting, one of which must be online.