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No. 778

H.P. 583

House of Representatives, March 5, 2021

An Act To Enable Electronic Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect for Certain Mandated Reporters

Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MADIGAN of Waterville.

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4012, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2011, c. 402, §2, is further amended to read:

1. Immediate report. Reports regarding abuse or neglect must be made immediately by telephone to the department unless otherwise specified in this subsection and must be followed by a written report within 48 hours if requested by the department.

Hospitals, medical personnel, Medical professionals, hospitals and hospital staff, school personnel and law enforcement personnel may submit emergency reports through password-protected e-mail submissions. A faxed report may also be accepted when preceded by a telephone call informing the department of the incoming fax transmission electronically. The department shall provide a portal through which these electronic reports may be submitted that is linked to the department's comprehensive child welfare information system.

SUMMARY

This bill amends outdated language regarding electronic submission of reports of suspected abuse or neglect to the Department of Health and Human Services by removing the language regarding secure e-mail and fax transmissions. Instead, electronic reports are submitted through a portal provided by the department linked to the department's comprehensive child welfare information system. The bill also expands the types of mandated reporters who may report electronically to include school personnel.