**An Act To Ensure That Children Receive Behavioral Health Services**

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

**Sec.** **1. 19-A MRSA §1653-B** is enacted to read:

**§****1653-B.** **Parental rights and responsibilities; behavioral health services**

This section governs the provision of behavioral health services to a minor child when one parent opposes treatment. Notwithstanding section 1651, if the parents of a minor child are unable to agree on the provision of behavioral health services to the child, the parents of the minor child shall participate in mediation with a 3rd party in a manner that is timely to the minor child's situation. For purposes of this section, "behavioral health services" means all treatment or other services to support a child's mental health, including substance use disorder treatment.

This section does not apply to parents who have a court order establishing parental rights and responsibilities under section 1653, subsection 2 if that order allocates decision making among the parents regarding the provision of behavioral health services to the child or otherwise addresses parental decision making related to behavioral health services.

**SUMMARY**

This bill provides that in the event one parent of a minor child opposes providing behavioral health services to the child, the parents are required to enter mediation with a 3rd party in a manner that is timely to the minor child's situation.