**An Act To Revise the Department of Health and Human Services Rehabilitation and Reunification Process**

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

**Sec.** **1. 22 MRSA §4041, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

**4.** **Evaluation and progress meeting.**  Within 6 months of an order finding jeopardy under section 4035, subsection 4-A, the department shall convene a meeting with all parents and the guardian ad litem of the child and all other interested parties to evaluate efforts and progress made on performing or achievement of elements of a rehabilitation and reunification plan under subsection 1-A, paragraph A, subparagraph (1), division (c). A statement made or information given during the meeting is confidential and may not be admitted or used against a party in any judicial or administrative proceeding. The department shall provide notice of the meeting to all interested parties, and a party's failure to appear at the meeting after receiving notice and without good cause is admissible against the party in an administrative or judicial proceeding under this chapter.

**SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to convene a meeting with all parents and the guardian ad litem of a child and other interested parties in a matter involving a child placed in foster care to evaluate efforts and progress made on performing or achievement of elements under a rehabilitation and reunification plan for the child within 6 months of an order of jeopardy issued by the court. Any statement or information given during the meeting is confidential and inadmissible in any administrative or judicial proceeding. The department is required to give notice of the meeting to all interested parties, and a party's failure to appear at the meeting after receiving notice and without good cause may be used against the party in an administrative or judicial proceeding.