

132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1409

H.P. 931

House of Representatives, April 1, 2025

An Act Regarding the Rights of Foster Parents

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative GRIFFIN of Levant.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BAGSHAW of Windham, CIMINO of Bridgton, COLLINS of Sidney, JAVNER of Chester.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4005-G, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 411, §11, is amended to read:
1. Kinship preference. Except as provided in subsections 3, 5 and, 6 and 7, in the residential placement of a child, the department shall give preference to an adult relative over a nonrelated caregiver when determining placement for a child, as long as the adult relative meets all relevant state child protection standards.
Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4005-G, sub-§7 is enacted to read:
7. Foster parent rights. The department is required to consider a foster parent who is not a relative and who has had a child placed in that foster parent's home for a continuous period of one year or more to have the same rights as an adult relative of the child.
SUMMARY
This bill establishes that a foster parent who has had a child in that foster parent's home for a continuous period of one year or more has the same rights as an adult relative of the child.