

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

Amend the bill in section 1 in §1502 by striking out all of subsection 5 and inserting the following:

**5. Determined at risk of harm.** The minor is determined to be at risk of harm or maltreatment, including loss of access to treatment, if a legal guardian were to be notified. The determination must be made by the following:

- A. A licensed professional trained in the treatment of mental health or substance abuse problems;
- B. A guidance counselor;
- C. A court-appointed special advocate or guardian ad litem appointed for the minor;
- D. A clergy member; or
- E. A family or domestic violence victim advocate.

The person making the determination shall refer the legal guardian to the department for investigation of possible abuse or neglect as is required in section 4011-A.'

## SUMMARY

This amendment broadens the categories of people who may make the determination that notifying the legal guardian creates a risk to the minor of harm or maltreatment. The added categories are guidance counselors, court-appointed special advocates or guardians ad litem appointed for the minor, clergy and family or domestic violence victim advocates. All of the additional categories are already included as mandated reporters of suspected child abuse and neglect.