

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 by striking out all of section 1 and inserting the following:

‘**Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §558** is enacted to read:

**§ 558. Failure to report a missing child**

**1.** A person is guilty of failure to report a missing child if that person, being a parent, foster parent, guardian or other person having the care and custody of a child who is in fact under 13 years of age, knowingly fails to notify a law enforcement agency of that child's disappearance within 48 hours of becoming aware that the child is missing.

**2.** Failure to report a missing child is a Class D crime.’

**SUMMARY**

This amendment is the minority report. It amends the bill to restrict those responsible for reporting a missing child to the parent, foster parent, guardian or other person having the care and custody of the child. The amendment provides that a responsible person is guilty of failing to report a missing child if that person knowingly failed to notify a law enforcement agency within 48 hours of becoming aware that the child is missing. It also changes the class of the crime from a Class C crime to a Class D crime.

The amendment removes provisions of the bill regarding the failure to cooperate in the investigation of the death of a child.

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

**(See attached)**