

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 the title and substituting the following:

'An Act Concerning Court-ordered Parenting Education'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 19-A MRSA §1653, sub-§2, ¶F is enacted to read:

F. The court may order one or both parents to participate in parenting education.'

SUMMARY

The bill identifies a court's authority to order parents to participate in parenting education when one or both parents are not complying with an order establishing parental rights and responsibilities. This amendment replaces the bill to confirm that the court has the authority to require participation in a parenting education program as part of any order concerning parental rights and responsibilities. Although courts have this authority now, this amendment includes specific mention of the authority to order participation in parenting education to endorse court-ordered referrals of parents to parenting education programs while leaving it to the discretion of a judge or magistrate in each case to take into account relevant considerations, such as the availability of a program in the area, the parties' ability to afford to pay for the program or get a fee waiver, the existence of domestic violence or other appropriate factors.