**An Act to Amend the Maine Parentage Act Regarding Joinder of Parties**

**STATE OF MAINE**

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**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD**

**Two Thousand Twenty-three**

**\_\_\_\_\_**

**H.P. 83 - L.D. 137**

**An Act to Amend the Maine Parentage Act Regarding Joinder of Parties**

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

**Sec.** **1. 19-A MRSA §1836,** as enacted by PL 2015, c. 296, Pt. A, §1 and affected by Pt. D, §1, is amended to read:

**§****1836.** **Parties to proceeding**

In ~~addition to a child whose parentage is to be adjudicated~~ a proceeding to adjudicate the parentage of a child, all parents of the child must be joined as parties ~~in a proceeding to adjudicate parentage~~.

**Sec.** **2. 19-A MRSA §1844, sub-§2,** as enacted by PL 2015, c. 296, Pt. A, §1 and affected by Pt. D, §1, is amended to read:

**2.** **Adjudication in divorce, annulment or legal separation proceeding ~~to dissolve marriage~~** **or proceeding to establish parental rights.**  In a proceeding for divorce, for legal separation, to ~~dissolve~~ annul a marriage or to establish parental rights and responsibilities, the court is deemed to have made an adjudication of the parentage of a child if the court acts under circumstances that satisfy the jurisdictional requirements of section 2961 and the final order:

A. Expressly identifies a child as a "child of the ~~marriage~~ parties" or "issue of the marriage" or by similar words indicates that the parties are the parents of the child; or

B. Provides for support of the child by the parent or parents.