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No. 762

H.P. 567

House of Representatives, March 5, 2021

An Act To Clarify the Response to Truancy under the Child and Family Services and Child Protection Act

Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MEYER of Eliot.

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

2   **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4002, sub-§1,** as amended by PL 2015, c. 360, §2, is further
3   amended to read:

4   **1. Abuse or neglect.** "Abuse or neglect" means a threat to a child's health or welfare
5   by physical, mental or emotional injury or impairment, sexual abuse or exploitation
6   including under Title 17-A, sections 282, 852, 853 and 855, deprivation of essential needs
7   or lack of protection from these or ~~failure to ensure compliance with school attendance~~
8   ~~requirements under Title 20-A, section 3272, subsection 2, paragraph B or section 5051-A,~~
9   ~~subsection 1, paragraph C~~ truancy under Title 20-A, section 3272, subsection 2, paragraph
10   C or section 5051-A, subsection 1, paragraph C or D, by a person responsible for the child.

11   **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4002, sub-§6, ¶B,** as amended by PL 2007, c. 304, §11, is
12   further amended to read:

13   B. Deprivation of adequate food, clothing, shelter, supervision or care ~~or education~~
14   ~~when the child is at least 7 years of age and has not completed grade 6~~;

15   **Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §4002, sub-§6, ¶B-2** is enacted to read:

16   B-2. Truancy under Title 20-A, section 3272, subsection 2, paragraph C or section
17   5051-A, subsection 1, paragraph C or D;

18   **SUMMARY**
19   This bill amends definitions in the Child and Family Services and Child Protection Act
20   to update cross-references and to ensure the Department of Health and Human Services has
21   the authority to intervene in situations involving truancy under the Maine Revised Statutes,
22   Title 20-A.