



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 1495

H.P. 1028

House of Representatives, April 20, 2017

An Act To Break the Generational Cycle of Domestic Violence

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative HEAD of Bethel.
Cosponsored by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin and
Representatives: COREY of Windham, DENNO of Cumberland, DILLINGHAM of Oxford,
PARKER of South Berwick, PERKINS of Oakland, PICKETT of Dixfield, STEARNS of
Guilford, VACHON of Scarborough.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §264** is enacted to read:

3 **§264. Counseling and educational services for children affected by domestic**
4 **violence**

5 **1. Referral.** A parent, guardian or relative of a child affected by domestic violence
6 or a school, law enforcement agency, health care organization, health care provider or
7 domestic violence resource center may refer a child affected by domestic violence to a
8 nonprofit organization that provides counseling and educational services to children who
9 are affected by domestic violence.

10 **2. Nonprofit organizations that provide counseling and educational services.** A
11 nonprofit organization that provides counseling and educational services to children who
12 are affected by domestic violence and that receives referrals as described in subsection 1
13 may apply to the department for funding for these services.

14 **3. Department to divide State into 8 regions; funding.** The department shall
15 divide the State into 8 regions for purposes of providing funding to nonprofit
16 organizations under this section. The department shall provide funding under this section
17 to nonprofit organizations in all 8 regions of the State.

18 **4. Funding criteria.** In determining which nonprofit organizations to fund under
19 this section, the department shall consider, among other factors, how much money each
20 nonprofit organization spends on administration versus direct services and shall give
21 special consideration to nonprofit organizations that minimize administrative expenses
22 and to nonprofit organizations in rural areas. Services provided by a nonprofit
23 organization funded under this section must be targeted to children who are 2 years of age
24 or older and under 12 years of age.

25 **Sec. 2. Report.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall report on the
26 implementation of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 264 to the joint standing
27 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public safety matters and the joint
28 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services
29 matters no later than November 7, 2018.

30 **SUMMARY**

31 This bill provides that a nonprofit organization that provides counseling and
32 educational services to children who are affected by domestic violence and that receives
33 referrals from a parent, guardian or relative of a child affected by domestic violence or a
34 school, law enforcement agency, health care organization, health care provider or
35 domestic violence resource center may apply to the Department of Health and Human
36 Services for funding for these services. The bill directs the department to divide the State
37 into 8 regions for purposes of providing funding to these nonprofit organizations and to
38 provide funding in all 8 regions. In determining which nonprofit organizations to fund,
39 the department must consider, among other factors, how much money each nonprofit

1 organization spends on administration versus direct services and must give special
2 consideration to nonprofit organizations that minimize administrative expenses and to
3 nonprofit organizations in rural areas. Services provided by the nonprofit organization
4 must be targeted to children who are 2 years of age or older and under 12 years of age.

5 The bill provides that the department must report on the implementation of these
6 provisions to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
7 public safety matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
8 jurisdiction over health and human services matters no later than November 7, 2018.