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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
127TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 977, L.D. 1432, Bill, “An Act To Consolidate the Investigation of Out-of-home Child Abuse and Neglect”

Amend the bill in section 3 in §8357 by striking out all of subsection 1 (page 8, lines 5 to 8 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

'1. Disclosure; report of abuse or neglect. Notwithstanding section 7703, subsection 2, paragraph B, the department may disclose a statement indicating whether or not a report of out-of-home child abuse or neglect has been received, the nature of the alleged abuse or neglect and the conclusion reached by the investigation team, upon the conclusion of the investigation.'

Amend the bill in section 3 in §8357 in subsection 2 in the 3rd line (page 8, line 11 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "shall" and inserting the following: 'may'

Amend the bill in section 3 in §8357 in subsection 5 in the 1st line (page 8, line 24 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "investigation team" and inserting the following: 'department'

Amend the bill in section 3 in §8357 in subsection 5 in the last line (page 8, line 26 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "website" the following: 'upon the conclusion of an investigation'

SUMMARY

This amendment allows the Department of Health and Human Services' investigation team to notify a child's parent, guardian or custodian that the child has been allegedly abused or neglected, rather than requiring the notification, to reflect that there are situations when the parent, guardian or custodian should not be notified. It also clarifies that the department, rather than the investigation team, may publish information on the department's publicly accessible website regarding an investigation, but only upon the conclusion of the investigation.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT