

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

S.P. 262 - L.D. 594

**Resolve, to Review the Resource Parent Bill of Rights**

**Sec. 1. Department of Health and Human Services to review Resource Parent Bill of Rights. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human Services shall convene a stakeholder group to examine the department's Resource Parent Bill of Rights to ensure that foster, adoptive and kinship families are adequately supported as active participants in the State's efforts to care for children in need of out-of-home placement. The stakeholder group must include, but is not limited to, department personnel involved in the child welfare system, representatives from statewide organizations that provide support services for adoptive and foster parents and kinship families and representatives from a statewide organization that advocates to improve the short-term and long-term outcomes for youth who are or have been in foster care and resource families. The stakeholder group must also include individuals from a range of different types of resource families, including a family that provides care to a child in the child welfare system, and individuals that are kinship families, foster parents, permanency guardians, adoptive parents and members of a child's extended birth family. The stakeholder group shall examine the Resource Parent Bill of Rights to determine if it adequately ensures sufficient resources, supports, services, involvement and communication for resource families. The department shall submit a report with findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services no later than January 15, 2024.