



Administrative Office of the Courts

P.O. Box 4820, Portland, Maine 04112-4820

Tel: (207) 822-0792 FAX: (207) 822-0781 TTY: (207) 822-0701

Julia Finn, Esq.
Legislative Analyst

Tel: (207) 822-0767
julia.finn@courts.maine.gov

Judicial Branch testimony in favor of LD 2081, An Act to Amend a Notice Provision Regarding Registration of Out-of-state Custody Determinations Under the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act:

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Julie Finn and I represent the Judicial Branch. I would like to provide testimony and comments in support of this bill proposed by the Family Law Advisory Commission (FLAC).

This bill involves the uniform law that regulates the custody of children in family and divorce matters when parents move to or reside in different states or countries. If a parent moves to Maine and wishes to enforce or modify a child custody determination from another state, for example, the parent must first register the out-of-state order with a Maine court. The law further provides that service of the out-of-state order be undertaken by the “registering tribunal,” or the Maine court clerk’s office.

LD 2081 shifts the service responsibility from the court to the registering parent. The Judicial Branch supports this change for two reasons. First, the registering parent will have more accurate and up-to-date information regarding the location and residence of the other parent, making service more likely to be successful. And second, this will relieve our overburdened clerks with one small part of their duties, leaving them more time to focus on other important matters.

Finally, as cited by FLAC, making this change will align this process with that of other family matter pleadings in the Maine District Court, in which service is the responsibility of the petitioning party.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer your questions.