

## 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

**Legislative Document** 

No. 821

H.P. 595

House of Representatives, February 14, 2019

An Act To Set Case Load Standards for the Office of Child and Family Services

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

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

R(+ B. Hunt

Presented by Representative MADIGAN of Waterville.

Cosponsored by Senator BELLOWS of Kennebec and

Representatives: AUSTIN of Skowhegan, BEEBE-CENTER of Rockland, DENNO of Cumberland, DODGE of Belfast, DOORE of Augusta, HICKMAN of Winthrop, MEYER of Eliot, PERRY of Calais.

2	Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4004, sub-§4 is enacted to read:
3	4. Staffing. The department shall ensure that:
4 5 6 7 8	A. A caseworker is not assigned a number of cases that exceeds a number established by the department by rule. The number established by the department must be a number recommended by a national organization with expertise in maximum case loads that ensures caseworkers can adequately focus on each case; and
9 10	B. The number of department caseworkers assigned to any individual support staff may not exceed 8.
11	SUMMARY
12 13	This bill requires that the Department of Health and Human Services ensure that a caseworker in the Office of Child and Family Services is not assigned a number of cases
14	that exceeds a number established by the department by rule. The number established by
15	the department must be a number recommended by a national organization with expertise
16	in maximum case loads that ensures caseworkers can adequately focus on each case. The
17	bill also provides that the number of caseworkers assigned to any individual support staff
18	may not exceed 8.

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

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