



# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

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Legislative Document

No. 934

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H.P. 690

House of Representatives, March 8, 2021

**An Act To Create a Family and Juvenile Mediation Program within  
the Department of Health and Human Services**

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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 LIBBY of Auburn.

Cosponsored by Representatives: EVANGELOS of Friendship, WARREN of Hallowell.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA, Sub-T. 3, Pt. 3, c. 1049** is enacted to read:

3 **CHAPTER 1049**

4 **FAMILY MEDIATION RESOURCE PROGRAM**

5 **§3681. Definitions**

6 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms  
7 have the following meanings.

8 **1. Family.** "Family" means a parent and a minor child.

9 **2. Parent.** "Parent" means a parent, custodian or person responsible for the child as  
10 those terms are defined in section 4002.

11 **3. Program.** "Program" means the family mediation resource program established by  
12 the department in accordance with this subchapter.

13 **§3682. Family mediation resource program established**

14 The department shall establish and implement a family mediation resource program to  
15 support communication and conflict resolution between parents and children as an  
16 alternative to mental health services or the court system. The program must meet the  
17 following requirements.

18 **1. Eligibility.** A family self-referred or referred by a school counselor, school official,  
19 law enforcement officer, prosecutor or juvenile court judge may be eligible for the program  
20 or may be eligible according to other criteria established by the department in rule.

21 **2. Collaboration.** The program must connect a family eligible for the program under  
22 subsection 1 to applicable resources, including but not limited to community-based  
23 providers, who will work collaboratively with parents and children to solve disputes and  
24 support the needs of the family.

25 **3. Individualized services.** The program must provide individualized services or  
26 referrals to services based on the needs of the family eligible for the program under  
27 subsection 1.

28 **4. Rules.** The department may adopt rules to develop and implement this program.  
29 Rules adopted pursuant to this subchapter are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,  
30 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

31 **Sec. 2. Rulemaking.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall adopt  
32 rules to develop and implement the program established in the Maine Revised Statutes,  
33 Title 22, section 3682 no later than October 1, 2021. Rules adopted pursuant to this section  
34 are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

**SUMMARY**

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This bill establishes a family mediation resource program within the Department of Health and Human Services to support communication and conflict resolution between parents and children as an alternative to mental health services or the court system.