

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

**An Act To Require a Person Who Commits a Sex Offense  
against a Dependent or Incapacitated Adult To Register under  
the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act of 1999**

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

**Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §251, sub-§1, ¶H** is enacted to read:

H. "Dependent adult" means an adult who has a physical or mental condition that substantially impairs the adult's ability to adequately provide for that adult's daily needs. "Dependent adult" includes, but is not limited to, the following:

(1) A resident of a nursing home licensed or required to be licensed under Title 22, section 1817;

(2) A resident of a facility providing assisted living services licensed or required to be licensed pursuant to Title 22, section 7801; and

(3) A person considered a dependent person under section 555.

**Sec. 2. 17-A MRSA §251, sub-§1, ¶I** is enacted to read:

I. "Incapacitated adult" means an adult who is impaired by reason of mental illness, mental deficiency, physical illness or disability to the extent that the adult lacks sufficient understanding or capacity to make or communicate responsible decisions concerning that adult's person, or to the extent that the adult cannot effectively manage or apply that adult's estate to necessary ends.

**Sec. 3. 17-A MRSA §253, sub-§2, ¶I**, as amended by PL 2001, c. 383, §16 and affected by §156, is further amended to read:

I. The actor is a psychiatrist, a psychologist or licensed as a social worker or purports to be a psychiatrist, a psychologist or licensed as a social worker to the other person and the other person, not the actor's spouse, is a patient or client for mental health therapy of the actor. As used in this paragraph, "mental health therapy" means psychotherapy or other treatment modalities intended to change behavior, emotions or attitudes, which therapy is based upon an intimate relationship involving trust and dependency with a substantial potential for vulnerability and abuse. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; or

**Sec. 4. 17-A MRSA §253, sub-§2, ¶J**, as corrected by RR 2003, c. 2, §25, is amended to read:

J. The actor owns, operates or is an employee of an organization, program or residence that is operated, administered, licensed or funded by the Department of Health and Human Services and the other person, not the actor's spouse, receives services from the organization, program or residence

and the organization, program or residence recognizes the other person as a person with mental retardation. It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this paragraph that the actor receives services for mental retardation or is a person with mental retardation as defined in Title 34B, section 5001, subsection 3. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; or

**Sec. 5. 17-A MRSA §253, sub-§2, ¶K** is enacted to read:

K. The other person is a dependent adult or incapacitated adult, which is reasonably apparent or known to the actor, and the actor is employed as a caregiver or otherwise provides care to the person. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime.

**Sec. 6. 17-A MRSA §255-A, sub-§1, ¶U**, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 450, §2, is amended to read:

U. The actor is a psychiatrist, a psychologist or licensed as a social worker or purports to be a psychiatrist, a psychologist or licensed as a social worker to the other person and the other person, not the actor's spouse, is a patient or client of the actor for mental health therapy. As used in this paragraph, "mental health therapy" means psychotherapy or other treatment modalities intended to change behavior, emotions or attitudes and based upon an intimate relationship involving trust and dependency with a substantial potential for vulnerability and abuse. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; or

**Sec. 7. 17-A MRSA §255-A, sub-§1, ¶V**, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 450, §2, is amended to read:

V. The actor is a psychiatrist, a psychologist or licensed as a social worker or purports to be a psychiatrist, a psychologist or licensed as a social worker to the other person and the other person, not the actor's spouse, is a patient or client of the actor for mental health therapy and the sexual contact includes penetration. As used in this paragraph, "mental health therapy" means psychotherapy or other treatment modalities intended to change behavior, emotions or attitudes and based upon an intimate relationship involving trust and dependency with a substantial potential for vulnerability and abuse. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; or

**Sec. 8. 17-A MRSA §255-A, sub-§1, ¶W** is enacted to read:

W. The other person is a dependent adult or incapacitated adult, which is reasonably apparent or known to the actor, and the actor is employed as a caregiver or otherwise provides care to the person. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; or

**Sec. 9. 17-A MRSA §255-A, sub-§1, ¶X** is enacted to read:

X. The other person is a dependent adult or incapacitated adult, which is reasonably apparent or known to the actor, and the actor is employed as a caregiver or otherwise provides care to the person and the sexual contact includes penetration. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime.

**Sec. 10. 34-A MRSA §11203, sub-§6**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 365, Pt. B, §§10 to 12 and affected by §22, is further amended to read:

**6. Sex offense.** "Sex offense" means a conviction for one of the following offenses or for an attempt or solicitation of one of the following offenses if the victim was less than 18 years of age at the time of the criminal conduct or if the victim was a dependent or incapacitated adult at the time of the conduct:

B. A violation under former Title 17, section 2922; former Title 17, section 2923; former Title 17, section 2924; Title 17A, section 253, subsection 2, paragraph E, F, G, H, I or J or K; Title 17A, section 254; former Title 17A, section 255, subsection 1, paragraph A, E, F, G, I or J; former Title 17A, section 255, subsection 1, paragraph B or D if the crime was not elevated a class under former Title 17A, section 255, subsection 3; Title 17A, section 255A, subsection 1, paragraph A, B, C, G, I, J, K, L, M, N, Q, R, S or T, W or X; Title 17A, section 256; Title 17A, section 258; Title 17A, section 259; Title 17A, section 282; Title 17A, section 283; Title 17A, section 284; Title 17A, section 301, subsection 1, paragraph A, subparagraph (3), unless the actor is a parent of the victim; Title 17A, section 511, subsection 1, paragraph D; Title 17A, section 556; Title 17A, section 852, subsection 1, paragraph B; or Title 17A, section 855;

C. A violation in another jurisdiction that includes the essential elements of an offense listed in paragraph B; or

D. A conviction for a military, tribal or federal offense requiring registration pursuant to:

(1) The Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act, also known as the Jacob Wetterling Act, Section 170101 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, Public Law 103-322, as amended; or

(2) The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, Public Law 109248.

**Sec. 11. 34-A MRSA §11203, sub-§10** is enacted to read:

**10. Dependent adult.** "Dependent adult" means an adult who has a physical or mental condition that substantially impairs the adult's ability to adequately provide for that adult's daily needs. "Dependent adult" includes, but is not limited to, the following:

A. A resident of a nursing home licensed or required to be licensed under Title 22, section 1817;

B. A resident of a facility providing assisted living services licensed or required to be licensed pursuant to Title 22, section 7801; and

C. A person considered a dependent person under Title 17A, section 555.

**Sec. 12. 34-A MRSA §11203, sub-§11** is enacted to read:

**11. Incapacitated adult.** "Incapacitated adult" means an adult who is impaired by reason of mental illness, mental deficiency, physical illness or disability to the extent that the adult lacks sufficient understanding or capacity to make or communicate responsible decisions concerning that adult's person, or to the extent that the adult cannot effectively manage or apply that adult's estate to necessary ends.

**Sec. 13. Effective date.** This Act takes effect October 1, 2011.

### **SUMMARY**

This bill specifies that an actor who is employed as a caregiver or otherwise provides care to a person who is a dependent adult or incapacitated adult and who commits gross sexual assault or unlawful sexual contact against the person whose dependency or incapacity is reasonably apparent or known to the actor is guilty of committing a sex offense as defined in the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act of 1999 requiring a 10year registration. Registration requirements for persons who commit these new crimes in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 17A, section 253, subsection 2, paragraph K or Title 17A, section 255A, subsection 1, paragraph W or paragraph X do not apply until October 1, 2011.