

## **Governor Ceremonially Signs Bill to Increase Guardianship Standards**

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Governor's Office

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci today ceremonially signed LD 944, An Act To Increase the Evidentiary Standard Required to Establish a Guardianship. The law creates a higher standard for a person to be placed under guardianship. A judge would have to find “clear and convincing” evidence that a person with a disability is incapacitated. The current benchmark is to find a “preponderance” of the evidence merits guardianship.

“This bill strikes a careful balance between the civil rights and other needs of Maine citizens with disabilities,” said Governor Baldacci. “This legislation will hopefully allow more people to live independently, while assuring their health and safety.”

Bill sponsor Rep. Mark Bryant (D-Windham) was at the ceremonial signing along with supporters of the legislation.