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Date: (Filing No. H-)

JUDICIARY

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1343, L.D. 2119, “An Act to Support Suicide Prevention by Allowing the Voluntary Waiver of Firearm Rights”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, to Establish the Task Force to Study the Creation of a System to Allow for the Voluntary Waiver of Firearm Rights'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved: That the Task Force to Study the Creation of a System to Allow for the Voluntary Waiver of Firearm Rights, referred to in this resolve as "the task force," is established.

Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the task force consists of 13 members as follows:

- 1. Five members appointed by the President of the Senate as follows:
 - A. Two members of the Senate, including one member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;
 - B. One member who has expertise in gun safety matters;
 - C. One member who represents a statewide organization focused on mental health; and
 - D. One member who is a federally licensed firearms dealer;
- 2. Six members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives as follows:
 - A. Two members of the House of Representatives, including one member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;
 - B. One member who has expertise in suicide prevention;
 - C. One member who represents a statewide firearms organization;
 - D. One member who represents a statewide civil liberties organization; and

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1 E. One member who is a veteran and who is a member of a statewide organization of
2 persons who hunt, fish or trap;

3 3. The Commissioner of Public Safety or the commissioner's designee; and

4 4. The Chief Information Officer within the Department of Administrative and
5 Financial Services or the Chief Information Officer's designee.

6 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is the Senate chair
7 and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the task force.

8 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of task force. Resolved:** That all
9 appointments must be made within 30 days following the effective date of this resolve. The
10 President of the Senate and Speaker of the House shall notify the Executive Director of the
11 Legislative Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all
12 members, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the task force. If 30 days or
13 more after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have
14 been made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant
15 authority for the task force to meet and conduct its business.

16 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall examine the feasibility of
17 establishing a system for the voluntary waiver of firearm rights in the State. When
18 considering the establishment of the system, the task force shall consider the following
19 topics:

20 1. The best system for implementation, including consideration of in-person or online
21 systems;

22 2. An examination of a system of voluntary waiver of firearm rights adopted by or
23 established in other states;

24 3. What costs will be incurred in setting up such a system;

25 4. How to ensure confidentiality for individuals seeking a waiver of firearm rights;

26 5. How to ensure that revocation of a waiver of firearm rights is easily available;

27 6. Ensuring that the system has proper safeguards to prevent coercion or fraud in
28 regards to filing a waiver of firearm rights;

29 7. Any penalties required for abuse of the system;

30 8. The scope and applicability of limited liability in a firearm hold agreement; and

31 9. Any other topic the task force determines necessary.

32 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Legislative Council shall provide
33 necessary staffing services to the task force, except that Legislative Council staff support
34 is not authorized when the Legislature is in regular or special session.

35 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than November 6, 2024, the task force
36 shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested
37 legislation, for presentation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
38 jurisdiction over judiciary matters. The committee is authorized to report out legislation to
39 the 132nd Legislature in 2025.'

1 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
2 number to read consecutively.

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve establishing the Task Force to Study
5 the Creation of a System to Allow for the Voluntary Waiver of Firearm Rights, which is
6 directed to study the feasibility of establishing a system of voluntary waiver of firearm
7 rights in the State. The task force is required to submit a report by November 6, 2024 to the
8 joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters,
9 which is authorized to report out legislation based on the report to the 132nd Legislature
10 in 2025.

11 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**
12 **(See attached)**