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Date: (Filing No. H-)

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
132ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1370, L.D. 2040, “An Act to Survey Food Insecurity in Maine”

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

'Resolve, to Study Food Insecurity Measures in Maine'

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

'Sec. 1. Assessment and evaluation of food insecurity measures in State. Resolved: That, in view of the fact that the United States Department of Agriculture terminated its annual Household Food Security report, the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall study opportunities to assess and evaluate food insecurity measures in the State and the State’s progress in its strategic plan to end hunger by 2030 under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 2, subsection 6. The commissioner shall seek input from the advisory committee established in Title 7, section 2, subsection 6, outside organizations and other state agencies as necessary in conducting the study. The commissioner may contract with external agencies to study feasible methods to measure and track food insecurity in the State over time, if sufficient funding has been provided for this purpose. This study may include reviewing existing measurements of disparities of food insecurity in target populations, including, but not limited to, those defined by age, geography, income, race and veteran status, as defined by federal and state policy. The study may include a gap analysis to identify missing or incomplete data sets. Results of the study must be published and made available on a publicly accessible website.

Sec. 2. Acceptance of funds for study. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may accept funds from any public or private source for the purposes of the study under section 1. Funds must be transferred into a separate, nonlapsing account, administered by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, for the purposes of this resolve and may not be used for any other purpose.

Sec. 3. Report. Resolved: That, no later than January 15, 2027, the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall submit a report to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 forestry matters; health and human services matters; and education and cultural affairs. The
2 report must include the following:

3 1. A summary of issues or challenges encountered in conducting the study under
4 section 1;

5 2. Data and metrics measuring the outcomes and impacts of the study; and

6 3. Recommendations regarding further study or courses of action relative to the report
7 findings.

8 Each joint standing committee receiving a report under this section may submit
9 legislation based on the subject matter of the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.'

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

12 SUMMARY

13 This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve. The amendment directs the
14 Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to study opportunities to assess
15 and evaluate food insecurity measures in the State and the State’s progress in its strategic
16 plan to end hunger by 2030.

17 The amendment requires the commissioner to seek input from the advisory committee
18 for the strategic plan, outside organizations and other state agencies as necessary in
19 conducting the study and authorizes the commissioner to contract with external agencies
20 to conduct the study. Results of the study must be published and made available on a
21 publicly accessible website.

22 The amendment requires the commissioner to submit a report with findings and
23 recommendations as a result of the study to the joint standing committees of the Legislature
24 having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and forestry matters; health and human
25 services matters; and education and cultural affairs. Each joint standing committee may
26 submit legislation based on the subject matter of the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

27 FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

28 (See attached)