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Date: (Filing No. H-)

MARINE RESOURCES

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
127TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 294, L.D. 427, Bill, “An Act To Address and Mitigate the Effects of Marine Debris”

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

'Resolve, Directing Certain State Agencies To Consider the Effects of Marine Debris'

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

Preamble. Whereas, the ocean environment and its resources are vital to the economy, cultural identity and daily lives of many Maine citizens and communities; and

Whereas, coastal residents and communities in Maine depend on healthy and abundant ocean resources for their livelihoods, recreation and ways of life; and

Whereas, the oceans annually receive an estimated 4,800,000 to 12,700,000 metric tons of plastic waste; and

Whereas, there is a projected increase in the amount of plastic marine debris based on current production and consumption; and

Whereas, plastics of all sizes have been shown to adsorb micropollutants and organic contaminants in the environment; and

Whereas, large pieces of plastic, including plastics from recreational and commercial fishing, marine vessels and marine fishing gear, degrade into progressively smaller fragments through chemical and physical processes, eventually resulting in microscopic particles of plastic that remain in the environment indefinitely; and

Whereas, plastics are a recognized contaminant of concern that threatens wildlife and human health; and

Whereas, a wide range of organisms, from zooplankton to mussels to fish to baleen whales, are capable of ingesting contaminated microplastics; and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

