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Date: (Filing No. H-)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 482, L.D. 740, “An Act to Establish a Comprehensive Program to Divert Youth from the Criminal Justice System and Address Their Needs”

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

'Resolve, to Study Methods for Improving Youth Community Supervision and Increasing Juvenile Diversion from Formal Judicial Processing'

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

'Sec. 1. Department of Corrections to convene task force. Resolved: That the Department of Corrections shall convene a task force, referred to in this resolve as "the task force," to study methods for diverting youths safely from formal judicial processing and to recommend improvements to existing community supervision practices.

Sec. 2. Task force members. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Corrections shall appoint the following 12 members to the task force:

1. One member who is a regional correctional administrator within the Department of Corrections;
2. One member who is a regional correctional manager within the Department of Corrections;
3. One member who is a juvenile community corrections officer within the Department of Corrections;
4. One member with expertise in youth development and children's behavioral health within the Department of Health and Human Services;
5. One member who is an active, active retired or retired judge or justice with experience in the juvenile justice system, recommended by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court;
6. One member who is a prosecutor with experience in the juvenile justice system;

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 7. One member who is a defense attorney with experience in the juvenile justice
2 system;

3 8. One member with experience in youth development and juvenile justice data
4 analysis and research within the University of Maine System;

5 9. One member from a community-based program or organization designed to divert
6 youth from the juvenile justice system;

7 10. One member with expertise and experience in youth law and policy development;

8 11. One member who has personal experience with the juvenile justice system; and

9 12. One member who is related to a youth who has been involved in the juvenile justice
10 system.

11 **Sec. 3. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall:

12 1. Identify, describe and collect data on diversion of youth from Department of
13 Corrections supervision prior to formal court involvement, including no further action
14 determinations and informal adjustments;

15 2. Identify obstacles and improvements to diversions that will help ensure the
16 Department of Corrections is able to divert youths from the formal juvenile court process
17 when appropriate;

18 3. To the extent possible, establish at least 3 pilot sites across the State that are
19 responsible for designing and implementing methods for diverting youths from the juvenile
20 justice system, with a particular focus on increasing diversion from Department of
21 Corrections supervision and court involvement; and

22 4. To the extent possible and appropriate, develop and implement a family-engaged
23 case planning process for youths under Department of Corrections supervision. The process
24 must be informed by research on successful methods that foster long-term behavioral
25 change and positive youth development and accountability. It also must be designed to
26 emphasize the perspective of youths and families, focus on individualized goals, build on
27 strengths and elevate community supports to improve outcomes for youth and public safety.

28 **Sec. 4. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than January 1, 2028, the Commissioner
29 of Corrections shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature
30 having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters that includes the findings
31 and recommendations of the task force. The joint standing committee may report out
32 legislation based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

33 **Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following
34 appropriations and allocations are made.

35 **CORRECTIONS, DEPARTMENT OF**

36 **Administration - Corrections 0141**

37 Initiative: Provides funding for one Public Service Manager I position and related costs to
38 implement the study and pilot project.

39 GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
40 POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
41 Personal Services	\$0	\$143,232

1	All Other	\$0	\$8,579
2			
3	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$151,811</u>

4

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

7

SUMMARY

8 This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve. The amendment directs the
9 Department of Corrections to convene a task force to study methods for diverting youths
10 safely from formal judicial processing and to recommend improvements to community
11 supervision practices. By January 1, 2028, the department must submit a report to the joint
12 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public
13 safety matters. The joint standing committee may report out legislation based on the report
14 to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

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FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

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(See attached)