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Date: (Filing No. H-)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 687, L.D. 1092, “An Act to Expand Services for Women Who Experience Gender-based Trauma and Violence”

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

'An Act to Prevent the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the State'

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

'Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4020 is enacted to read:

§4020. Program to prevent commercial sexual exploitation of children

1. Program established. No later than January 1, 2024, the department shall establish a program to prevent and respond to the commercial sexual exploitation of children in the State, referred to in this section as "the program." The program shall support the child advocacy centers established pursuant to section 4019 and community-based agencies in efforts to respond to suspected child sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation of children, connect children and families to resources and prevent commercial sexual exploitation of children. For the purposes of this section, "commercial sexual exploitation of children" means any activity involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of a child for the financial benefit of any person or in exchange for anything of monetary or nonmonetary value given or received by any person.

2. Advisory committee. No later than November 1, 2023, the department shall establish an advisory committee to oversee the program established in subsection 1. The committee shall make recommendations on the design of the program, programming for the intervention and prevention of commercial sexual exploitation of children and program evaluation strategies. The advisory committee shall include representatives of the department, child advocacy centers, community-based agencies with expertise working with commercially exploited children and a statewide coalition of sexual assault centers.

3. Three-year plan. The department shall develop a 3-year plan to develop a coordinated, child-centered approach to addressing suspected sexual abuse and commercial

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1 sexual exploitation of children, reducing trauma and connecting children and their families
 2 more rapidly and effectively with services to begin healing and preventing further harm
 3 that will inform the program established in subsection 1. No later than March 1, 2024, the
 4 department shall submit a report regarding the 3-year plan to the Joint Standing Committee
 5 on Health and Human Services.

6 **4. Biennial report.** Beginning January 2, 2026 and every 2 years thereafter, the
 7 department shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
 8 jurisdiction over health and human services matters with progress in implementing the 3-
 9 year plan established in subsection 3, modifications to the plan including any expanded
 10 services and programming and the activities of the program established in this section.

11 **Sec. 2. Positions funded.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall
 12 ensure that agencies receiving funding from the department to implement the program
 13 established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 4020 shall maintain the
 14 following positions for the duration of the funding period:

15 1. Two commercial sexual exploitation of children coordinators located at the Child
 16 Advocacy Centers established in Title 22, section 4019. One coordinator must be located
 17 in the northern region of the State and one must be located in the southern region of the
 18 State;

19 2. Three high-risk case managers located within community-based agencies who have
 20 expertise working with commercially exploited children; and

21 3. One half-time coordinator located within a statewide coalition of children's advocacy
 22 centers.

23 **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
 24 allocations are made.

25 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**
 26 **Office of Child and Family Services - District 0452**

27 Initiative: Provides funding for the Department of Health and Human Services to establish
 28 one Social Services Program Specialist II position to develop and staff a program to
 29 intervene and prevent commercial sexual exploitation of children.

30 GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
31 POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1,000	1,000
32 Personal Services	\$74,210	\$76,893
33 All Other	\$13,363	\$13,363
34		
35 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$87,573	\$90,256

36 **Purchased Social Services 0228**

37 Initiative: Provides ongoing funding to provide grants to service providers to support
 38 workforce needs for intervention and prevention of commercial sexual exploitation of
 39 children.

40 GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
41 All Other	\$408,331	\$408,331
42		

1	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$408,331	\$408,331
2			
3	HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,		
4	DEPARTMENT OF		
5	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2023-24	2024-25
6			
7	GENERAL FUND	\$495,904	\$498,587
8			
9	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$495,904	\$498,587
10			

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

13 **SUMMARY**

14 This amendment replaces the bill, which is a concept draft, and changes the title. It
 15 requires the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a program to prevent
 16 and respond to the commercial sexual exploitation of children in this State, through funding
 17 to support child advocacy centers and community-based agencies in their efforts to respond
 18 to suspected child sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation of children, connect
 19 children and families to resources and prevent commercial sexual exploitation of children.
 20 It requires the department to establish an advisory committee to oversee programming. It
 21 requires the department to develop a 3-year plan and to submit a report regarding the plan
 22 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and
 23 human services matters. The department is required to provide biennial reports beginning
 24 January 2, 2026. It establishes a position within the Department of Health and Human
 25 Services to develop and staff the program. The community-based agencies funded must
 26 establish 2 coordinator positions in the child advocacy centers, 3 high-risk case managers
 27 from community-based agencies and a half-time coordinator from the statewide coalition
 28 of children's advocacy centers. It includes an appropriations and allocations section to
 29 support the positions and the programming.

30 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**
 31 **(See attached)**

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