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Date: (Filing No. H- )

**HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
132ND LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 871, L.D. 1336, “An Act to Establish the Maine-Aomori Sister-state Advisory Council”

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

**'Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-K, sub-§10-B** is enacted to read:

**10-B.**

|                   |   |                       |                |
|-------------------|---|-----------------------|----------------|
| <u>State</u>      | <u>Maine-Aomori Sister-state Advisory</u> | <u>Not Authorized</u> | <u>10 MRSA</u> |
| <u>Government</u> | <u>Council</u>                            |                       | <u>§31</u>     |

**Sec. 2. 10 MRSA c. 1-C** is enacted to read:

**CHAPTER 1-C**

**MAINE-AOMORI SISTER-STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**§31. Maine-Aomori Sister-state Advisory Council**

The Maine-Aomori Sister-state Advisory Council, referred to in this chapter as "the council," is established by Title 5, section 12004-K, subsection 10-B to promote and cultivate a cooperative sister-state relationship between this State and the Prefecture of Aomori, Japan in order to benefit the citizens of the sister states.

**1. Members; terms.** The council consists of the president of the Maine International Trade Center, established pursuant to section 945, or the president's designee and 11 members who are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor, including:

A. One member with knowledge and experience in kindergarten to grade 12 education;

B. One member with knowledge and experience in public postsecondary education;

C. One member with knowledge and experience in private postsecondary education;

1 D. One member with knowledge and experience in business and international trade;

2 E. One member with knowledge and experience in the humanities, including  
3 performing or visual arts;

4 F. One member with knowledge and experience in the sciences, including natural  
5 resources;

6 G. One member with knowledge and experience in tourism;

7 H. One member representing a nonprofit corporation based in the State supporting the  
8 Maine-Aomori cooperative sister-state relationship;

9 I. One member with knowledge and experience in international exchanges; and

10 J. Two members representing the general public.

11 Appointed members of the council serve 3-year terms.

12 **2. Chair; meetings; compensation.** The chair of the council, who is elected by the  
13 members of the council, shall preside at, set the agenda for and schedule council meetings.  
14 The council shall meet at least 3 times per year. Meetings must be open to the public.  
15 Members of the council serve without compensation.

16 **3. Duties.** The council serves in an advisory capacity and has the following duties.

17 A. The council shall identify and assess existing activities and exchanges with the  
18 Prefecture of Aomori and devise strategies to develop cultural, educational and  
19 commercial opportunities between the sister states.

20 B. The council shall identify sources of support for sister-state exchanges, programs,  
21 projects and administrative assistance for the council. The council may seek and accept  
22 in-kind support from outside sources and funding from outside sources to fully fund its  
23 operations.

24 **4. Report.** The council shall submit a report to the Governor and the joint standing  
25 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development matters by  
26 February 1, 2026 and annually thereafter regarding the activities of the council during the  
27 preceding calendar year. The report must include recommendations as determined  
28 appropriate by the council to effectuate its purpose under this section. After reviewing the  
29 report under this subsection, the joint standing committee may report out legislation  
30 relating to the report.

31 **5. Official contact.** The president of the Maine International Trade Center, or the  
32 president's designee, shall serve as the official Maine contact for the Maine-Aomori  
33 cooperative sister-state relationship.

34 **Sec. 3. Staggered terms.** Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10,  
35 section 31, subsection 1, of the initial appointed members of the Maine-Aomori Sister-state  
36 Advisory Council, 4 members serve one-year terms, 4 members serve 2-year terms and 3  
37 members serve 3-year terms.

38 **Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
39 allocations are made.

40 **ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF**  
41 **International Commerce 0674**

Initiative: Provides ongoing funds to support the Maine-Aomori Sister-state Advisory Council.

| GENERAL FUND       | 2025-26  | 2026-27  |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| All Other          | \$20,000 | \$20,000 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$20,000 | \$20,000 |

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

### SUMMARY

This amendment, which replaces the bill, establishes the Maine-Aomori Sister-state Advisory Council in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, chapter 1-C, amends the council membership composition and requires the council to submit an annual report.

### FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)