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Date: (Filing No. H-)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 896, L.D. 1401, “An Act to Protect Officials and Participants at Sporting Events”

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

'Sec. 1. 8 MRSA §702 is enacted to read:

§702. Abuse of officials and participants of sporting events

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Official or participant" means a person at a sporting event who enforces the rules of the event, who supervises or coaches the participants competing in the sporting event or who competes in the sporting event.

B. "Sporting event" means:

(1) An organized youth sports activity sanctioned by the governing body of an organized youth sports program; or

(2) An organized high school or collegiate sports activity regulated or sanctioned by the governing body for organized sports competitions among public and private high schools in the State or by the nationwide organization that regulates student athletics at colleges and universities.

2. Prohibition. A person is guilty of abuse of an official or participant of a sporting event if during a sporting event that person directs abusive, profane, obscene or slanderous language at an official or participant of the sporting event.

3. Penalty. A person who violates subsection 2 commits a civil violation for which a fine of \$100 must be adjudged.'

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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SUMMARY

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, amends the bill by defining, for the purposes of the civil violation of abuse of an official or participant at a sporting event, the terms "official or participant" and "sporting event."

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)