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L.D. 1935

Date: (Filing No. H-)

LABOR

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1296, L.D. 1935, “An Act to Increase Penalties for Violations Related to Water Well Drilling”

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

'Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §4700-L, sub-§1, as corrected by RR 2021, c. 2, Pt. A, §115, is amended to read:

1. Fine. A person, company, firm, partnership or corporation who installs, alters, repairs or replaces a water well, geothermal heat exchange well or pump system without being licensed as provided in this chapter or in violation of the code of performance adopted by the commission pursuant to section 4700-H, subsection 5, except for an apprentice well driller or an apprentice pump installer as set forth in this chapter, or a person, firm, partnership or corporation who procures a license as provided in this chapter wrongfully or by fraud commits a civil violation punishable by a fine of not more than ~~\$1,000~~ \$10,000.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF
Drinking Water Enforcement 0728**

Initiative: Provides funding from increased penalties for water well drilling violations.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$7,200	\$7,200
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$7,200</u>	<u>\$7,200</u>

'

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

SUMMARY

This amendment is the minority report of the committee. This amendment removes the provision from the bill that provides that a person, company, firm, partnership or corporation who drills, drives or bores a water well or geothermal heat exchange well without being licensed commits a Class D crime. The amendment also decreases the civil violation fine from not more than \$25,000, as in the bill, to not more than \$10,000.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)