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Date: (Filing No. H-)

HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1402, L.D. 2087, “An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Licensure of American Sign Language Interpreters”

Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, this legislation implements certain recommendations from the Transforming Interpreting Maine needs assessment report issued by the Department of Health and Human Services following the October 2023 Lewiston shooting; and

Whereas, this legislation would provide more opportunities for persons in need of American Sign Language interpreting to access these services, especially during an emergency; and

Whereas, immediate enactment of this legislation is necessary to expand access to American Sign Language interpreting in this State; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,'

Amend the bill in section 3 in subsection 3 in the 4th line (page 1, line 17 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "situation" the following: 'is occurring, or did occur, that'

Amend the bill by adding before the summary the following:

'Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.'

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 clarifies that, for the purposes of an exemption to American Sign Language interpreter licensure, the determination of an emergency may be made by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation at the time an emergency occurs or afterward.

The amendment also adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause to the bill.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)