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Date: (Filing No. S-)

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 60, L.D. 129, “An Act to Amend the Law Governing Dedimus Justices”

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, the Governor may appoint in every county persons to be designated as dedimus justices, before whom the oath required by the Constitution of Maine to qualify civil officers may be taken and subscribed; and

Whereas, the need for the services that dedimus justices perform is outpacing the number of dedimus justices who can be found to perform the duties of that commission; and

Whereas, keeping an accurate account of how many people in this State are commissioned as dedimus justices and how to contact them is critical information for communities across this State who need the service that a dedimus justice performs; and

Whereas, this legislation must take effect before the end of the 90-day period to immediately address the shortage of dedimus justices available to qualify civil officers in the 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 by inserting after section 1 the following:

Sec. 2. Mailing from Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall send a mailing to each person designated prior to October 1, 2025 as a dedimus justice pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 4 to request in return the person's updated contact information, including the person's residence or mailing address, e-mail address

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 and telephone number. The mailing must also include information about the changes to
2 Title 5, section 4 provided in this Act and make clear that a dedimus justice designated
3 prior to October 1, 2025 is exempt from the term length requirement. Additionally, the
4 mailing must explain how the changes provide the opportunity for a dedimus justice to
5 resign the dedimus justice's commission.'

6 Amend the bill by adding before the summary the following:

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

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

11 SUMMARY

12 This amendment adds a section to the bill directing the Secretary of State to send a
13 mailing to each person designated prior to October 1, 2025 as a dedimus justice pursuant
14 to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 4 to request in return the person's updated
15 contact information, including the person's residence or mailing address, e-mail address
16 and telephone number. It requires that the mailing must also include information about the
17 changes to Title 5, section 4 provided in this legislation and make clear that a dedimus
18 justice designated prior to October 1, 2025 is exempt from the term length requirement.
19 Additionally, the mailing must explain how the changes provide the opportunity for a
20 dedimus justice to resign the dedimus justice's commission.

21 The amendment adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause.

22 FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

23 (See attached)