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Date: (Filing No. S-)

HOUSING

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 641, L.D. 1609, “An Act to Prevent Student Homelessness”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Develop a Pilot Program to Help Maine Students Avoid Homelessness'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting 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 State is experiencing the worst housing affordability crisis in its history and immediate action is necessary; and

Whereas, in 2023 the number of students in the State experiencing homelessness is over 2,000; and

Whereas, when a student becomes homeless, the problems associated with poor educational outcomes and trauma experienced by the student are compounded; and

Whereas, efforts to assist a student in avoiding homelessness are less costly than the assistance required for students who have become homeless; 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, be it

Sec. 1. Department of Education to develop a pilot program. Resolved: That the Department of Education's office of school and student supports is directed to establish a 2-year pilot program to help students avoid homelessness. As soon as funds are available for the pilot program, the department shall provide McKinney-Vento liaisons access to emergency financial assistance for the families of students in an amount up to \$750 per student. Emergency assistance may be provided for services authorized for funding under

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act in addition to assistance for other
2 housing-related needs such as rental assistance, utilities and critical home repairs and other
3 assistance that will help a student avoid homelessness.

4 **Sec. 2. Department of Education report. Resolved:** That the Department of
5 Education shall submit a report to the Joint Select Committee on Housing no later than July
6 1, 2024 on the administration of the pilot program and make recommendations with regard
7 to continued efforts to help students avoid homelessness in the 2024-2025 school year.

8 **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following
9 appropriations and allocations are made.

10 **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

11 **School and Student Supports Z270**

12 Initiative: Provides funds for a 2-year pilot program to help students avoid homelessness
13 by providing McKinney-Vento liaisons access to emergency financial assistance for the
14 families of students, in an amount of up to \$750 per student.

15 GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
16 All Other	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
17		
18 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$1,500,000</u>	<u>\$1,500,000</u>

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

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

23 **SUMMARY**

24 This amendment replaces the bill, which is a concept draft, with a resolve and adds an
25 emergency preamble and clause. The amendment directs the Department of Education to
26 develop a 2-year pilot program to provide McKinney-Vento liaisons with access to
27 emergency financial assistance funds for students at risk of homelessness.

28 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

29 **(See attached)**