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Date: (Filing No. H- )

**JUDICIARY**

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 533, L.D. 847, “An Act to Prohibit Housing Discrimination”

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

**'Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Improve Tenant-Landlord Relationships and Increase the Use of Housing Vouchers'**

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

**'Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission to Improve Tenant-Landlord Relationships and Increase the Use of Housing Vouchers, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established. For the purposes of this resolve, "housing voucher" means a tenant-based housing choice voucher issued under the United States Housing Act of 1937, Public Law 75-412, 50 Stat. 888, Section 8, as amended.

**Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the commission consists of 13 voting members as follows:

- 1. Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate, including one member of the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature and one member of the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Legislature;
- 2. Two members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House, including one member of the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature and one member of the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Legislature;
- 3. One member representing an organization that advocates for justice issues, including issues related to housing discrimination in the State, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 4. One member representing an organization that represents the interests of landlords in the State, appointed by the President of the Senate;

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1           5. One member with experience assisting individuals with accessing rental assistance  
2 programs, including individuals receiving shelter or transitional housing services,  
3 appointed by the President of the Senate;

4           6. One member with expertise in legal issues affecting tenants with low incomes,  
5 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

6           7. One member who is a landlord who enters into leases with tenants who rely on  
7 rental assistance, such as housing vouchers and municipal general assistance, appointed by  
8 the Speaker of the House;

9           8. One member who relies on general assistance and resides in income-restricted rental  
10 housing in the State, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

11           9. One member representing an organization that provides housing navigation services  
12 to tenants who rely on rental assistance, such as housing vouchers or municipal general  
13 assistance, to secure housing in the State, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

14           10. One member representing a statewide organization of real estate brokers, appointed  
15 by the Speaker of the House; and

16           11. The Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee.

17           The executive director of the Maine Human Rights Commission and the director of the  
18 Maine State Housing Authority, or their designees, serve as nonvoting members of the  
19 commission.

20           **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is the Senate chair  
21 and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the  
22 commission.

23           **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved:** That all  
24 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this  
25 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative  
26 Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members,  
27 the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission. If 30 days or more  
28 after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been  
29 made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for  
30 the commission to meet and conduct its business.

31           **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall:

32           1. Consider the extent to which recipients of income-based rental assistance are subject  
33 to housing discrimination based on the fact that they are recipients of rental assistance and  
34 the adequacy of current law to deter or prevent discrimination against tenants who are  
35 recipients of income-based rental assistance;

36           2. Consider establishing a process for investigating and correcting housing  
37 discrimination based on source of income against recipients of rental assistance in a timely  
38 manner, including developing a specific plan to establish an office within the executive  
39 branch to support successful tenancy for tenants who are recipients of income-based rental  
40 assistance;

41           3. Review the resources that currently exist to assist landlords in making necessary  
42 repairs and improvements to their properties to enter into contracts for housing vouchers;

