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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. 1436, L.D. 2121, “An Act to Enhance the Safety of Judicial and Elected Officials, Constitutional Officers and the State Auditor by Allowing Certain Personal Information to Be Removed from Designated Public Records”

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

'Resolve, to Convene a Working Group to Study Methods for Enhancing the Safety of Judicial and Elected Officials'

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

'Sec. 1. Working Group. Resolved: That the Department of the Secretary of State shall convene a working group, referred to in this resolve as "the working group," to study methods for enhancing the safety of judicial officers and elected officials in accordance with this section.

- 1. The working group must consist of at least the following 9 members:
 - A. The Secretary of State or the Secretary of State's designee;
 - B. A judge or justice of the District Court, the Superior Court or the Supreme Judicial Court designated by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court;
 - C. A representative of the Administrative Office of the Courts designated by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court;
 - D. The Commissioner of Public Safety or the commissioner's designee;
 - E. The Chief Information Officer or the Chief Information Officer's designee;
 - F. The Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee;
 - G. A representative from the Maine Municipal Association designated by the Maine Municipal Association;

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 H. A representative from the Right to Know Advisory Committee who is not a member
2 of the Legislature designated by the Chair of the Right to Know Advisory Committee;
3 and

4 I. A representative of the media designated by the Secretary of State.

5 2. At a minimum, the working group shall examine threats of violence currently faced
6 by judicial officers and elected officials in the State; legislation enacted in other states to
7 enhance the safety of judicial officers and elected officials, including but not limited to
8 legislation directing the removal of the home addresses and other personally identifying
9 information of judicial officers and elected officials from publicly accessible government
10 websites and databases and other public records; the logistical, financial, technological and
11 other requirements for government entities in the State to remove home addresses and other
12 personally identifying information of judicial officers and elected officials from publicly
13 accessible government websites and databases and other public records; whether it is
14 necessary to continue to include home addresses and other personally identifying
15 information of judicial officers and elected officials in certain types of public records
16 maintained by government entities in the State; and whether and how the State may direct
17 data brokers and other private entities to remove home addresses and other personally
18 identifying information of judicial officers and elected officials from publicly accessible
19 websites and databases.

20 **Sec. 2. Pilot project. Resolved:** That, no later than January 15, 2027, the
21 Department of the Secretary of State shall establish a 2-year pilot project that provides each
22 qualifying official who applies to participate in the pilot project with a subscription to a
23 service that removes the qualifying official's personally identifying information from
24 publicly accessible websites and databases. For the purposes of this section, "qualifying
25 official" means a judge or justice of a county probate court, the District Court, the Superior
26 Court and the Supreme Judicial Court or a Legislator.

27 **Sec. 3. Report. Resolved:** That the Department of the Secretary of State shall submit
28 a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary
29 matters no later than February 1, 2027 with an interim evaluation of the costs and
30 effectiveness of the pilot project under section 2. The interim evaluation must identify the
31 working group members, summarize the activities of the working group and set forth the
32 working group's findings and recommendations for enhancing the safety of judicial officers
33 and elected officials by protecting personally identifying information of these officers and
34 officials in government records, including any suggested legislation. The joint standing
35 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters may report out
36 legislation to the 133rd Legislature in 2027 based on the report.

37 **Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following
38 appropriations and allocations are made.

39 **SECRETARY OF STATE, DEPARTMENT OF**

40 **Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions 0692**

41 Initiative: Provides one-time funding for a subscription service to remove qualifying
42 information from publicly accessible websites.

43 GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
44 All Other	\$0	\$60,280

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GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$60,280
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Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

SUMMARY

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, replaces the bill with a resolve directing the Department of the Secretary of State to convene a working group of at least 9 members to study methods for enhancing the safety of judicial officers and elected officials and to establish a 2-year pilot project that provides each judge or justice and Legislator who applies to participate in the pilot project with a subscription to a service that removes that participant's personally identifying information from publicly accessible websites and databases. The amendment directs the department to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters no later than February 1, 2027 with an interim evaluation of the costs and effectiveness of the pilot project and setting forth the working group's findings and recommendations for enhancing the safety of judicial officers and elected officials. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters may report out legislation to the 133rd Legislature in 2027 based on the report.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)