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Date: (Filing No. S-)

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
132ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 651, L.D. 1643, “An Act to Establish the Maine Life Science Innovation Center”

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

'An Act to Establish the Maine Life Sciences Innovation Center'

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, Maine's growing life sciences sector represents a vital component of Maine's economy, with emerging opportunities across biomedical research, marine biology, agriculture, forestry and data science; and

Whereas, the life sciences sector is one of the fastest-growing sectors of Maine's economy, employing nearly 10,000 people, contributing \$2.3 billion annually to Maine's gross domestic product and providing wages that are 1.7 times higher than the state average; and

Whereas, innovation in life sciences contributes directly to the well-being of Maine people through advancements in human and animal health, environmental resilience, workforce development and economic growth; and

Whereas, the Legislature recognizes the need for a dedicated, coordinated and strategic approach to support research, development, commercialization and investment in the life sciences sector; and

Whereas, the Maine Technology Institute was established to support Maine's innovation economy through sponsorships, investments and partnerships that promote innovation and entrepreneurship, generate high-quality jobs, expand research and development, accelerate revenues, attract additional investment and foster the commercialization of new products and services in Maine's technology-intensive sectors; and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 MAINE LIFE SCIENCES INNOVATION CENTER

2 **§15331. Maine Life Sciences Innovation Center**

3 **1. Establishment; purpose.** The Maine Life Sciences Innovation Center, referred to
4 in this subchapter as "the center," is established within the institute to support life sciences
5 innovation, research, entrepreneurship and workforce development in the State. The center
6 is established to serve the following purposes:

7 A. To leverage and expand the State's life sciences sector by supporting collaborative
8 research, workforce training and entrepreneurial ventures and seeking capital
9 investment;

10 B. To advance life sciences innovation and sector research across disciplines, including
11 human and animal health, marine sciences, agriculture, forestry and data science;

12 C. To coordinate with public and private partners, educational and research institutions,
13 nonprofit organizations and business stakeholders to strengthen the State's innovation
14 efforts;

15 D. To investigate opportunities for grants, loans and other resources to support life
16 sciences entities;

17 E. To develop strategies to attract federal, philanthropic and private investment;

18 F. To advise the Maine Technology Institute Director under section 15310 on matters
19 related to life sciences innovation; and

20 G. To report regularly to the Legislature regarding the center's operations, activities
21 and recommendations.

22 **2. Membership.** The center is composed of 10 members. The members include:

23 A. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or the
24 commissioner's designee, who serves as an ex officio, nonvoting member; and

25 B. Nine voting members appointed by the Governor, upon the recommendation of the
26 Finance Authority of Maine and the institute, with expertise spanning the life sciences
27 sector and its allied disciplines, including representatives of industry, life sciences
28 entrepreneurs, research institutions, academia, hospitals, nonprofit organizations,
29 investors and counties, including rural counties. Each member under this paragraph is
30 entitled to one vote.

31 The Governor shall designate a chair from among the center's members to preside at, set
32 the agenda for and schedule center meetings.

33 Center members shall disclose any direct or indirect pecuniary interest in any matter before
34 the center and recuse themselves from any participation in the consideration of such a
35 matter.

36 **3. Operations.** The following provisions govern the operations of the center.

37 A. The center shall meet as often as it considers necessary for the center to perform its
38 work.

39 B. To the extent practicable, the center shall conduct its work in a manner that is open
40 and accessible to the public.

1 Technology Institute to support life sciences innovation, research, entrepreneurship and
2 workforce development in the State. The amendment directs the center to submit an interim
3 report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic
4 development matters no later than 180 days after all members of the center have been
5 appointed.

6 The amendment permanently establishes in law the Maine Life Sciences Innovation
7 Center that was previously established by the Governor by executive order and is not
8 intended to establish a separate, duplicative entity.

9 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**
10 **(See attached)**