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Date: (Filing No. H-)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 252, L.D. 419, “An Act to Ensure Polling Place Security”

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

'Resolve, to Establish a Working Group to Study Polling Places at Schools in Order to Protect Security and Accessibility'

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

Preamble. Whereas, the Legislature finds that school buildings are ideal locations to serve as polling places due to their central locations, accessible parking and compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; and

Whereas, most school buildings are also equipped with a gymnasium, which offers ample space and allows for the flow of foot traffic in a polling place; and

Whereas, school buildings are often the only locations within a community that can serve as a polling place for that community, but schools also require strong security at all times in order to protect students and staff and on election day to protect election staff and voters; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Working group to study polling places at schools. 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 the use of school buildings as polling places, to consider options to protect the security of school students and staff and election staff and voters and to consider polling place accessibility.

Sec. 2. Working group membership. Resolved: That the working group consists of 9 members as follows:

1. The Secretary of State or the secretary's designee;
2. The deputy secretary of state of the Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions within the Department of the Secretary of State or the deputy secretary's designee;

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 of State to convene a working group to study the use of school buildings as polling places,
2 to consider options to protect the security of school students and staff and election staff and
3 voters and to consider polling place accessibility. The working group is required to submit
4 a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs by January 1, 2024.
5 The committee may report out legislation based on the report to the Second Regular Session
6 of the 131st Legislature.

7 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

8 **(See attached)**