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Date:

(Filing No. H-)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
130TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 277, L.D. 393, “An Act To Amend the Laws Regarding Health and Human Services”

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

'An Act To Improve the Child Welfare System'

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

'Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4066, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:

2-A. Contingency fund expenditures. A summary of expenditures from the Child Protective Services Contingency Fund established in section 4004, subsection 1, paragraph D, including annual spending, purposes for expenditures and ranges of expenditures for families;

Sec. 2. Department of Health and Human Services to prioritize and ensure supportive services. The Department of Health and Human Services shall study the ability of the State to allow a parent whose minor child was removed from the home but who is engaged in rehabilitation and reunification services to continue to receive services for which the parent was eligible before the child was removed from custody and to receive priority for services for which there is a waiting list and that are critical to allowing families to transition out of the child welfare system. As part of this study, the department shall examine the following:

1. The extent to which a parent may continue to receive services, including but not limited to transportation, child care, housing assistance and home visiting services, at the same level for which the parent was eligible before the child was removed from custody under relevant federal and state laws; and

2. The extent to which families, including both children and parents, can be prioritized for services that have waiting lists, including but not limited to housing vouchers, behavioral health services and substance use disorder treatment, that are necessary for allowing families to transition out of the child welfare system.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 The Department of Health and Human Services shall submit a report with its findings
 2 and recommendations, including any recommended legislation, to the joint standing
 3 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters
 4 no later than February 1, 2023. The joint standing committee is authorized to report out
 5 legislation to the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

6 **Sec. 3. Department of Health and Human Services, special projects**
 7 **manager to prevent child abuse and neglect.** The Commissioner of Health and
 8 Human Services shall establish within the Department of Health and Human Services a
 9 special projects manager position for the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The special
 10 projects manager shall:

11 1. Coordinate the organization of efforts within the department and across state
 12 agencies to prevent and reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect;

13 2. Lead the development, implementation and oversight of a comprehensive statewide
 14 child abuse and neglect prevention plan;

15 3. Support the coordination of resources and activities across state agencies to
 16 strengthen and support families and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect;

17 4. Work with community-based organizations to coordinate initiatives, programs and
 18 activities that prevent child abuse and neglect and foster understanding, appreciation and
 19 knowledge of diverse populations across state agencies and in the community in order to
 20 effectively prevent and address child abuse and neglect across diverse racial, economic and
 21 geographic populations; and

22 5. Engage with multiple stakeholders, including state agency leaders; the Director of
 23 the Office of Child and Family Services, the Director of the Maine Center for Disease
 24 Control and Prevention and the associate director of child welfare within the Department
 25 of Health and Human Services; child welfare district managers and caseworkers;
 26 community service providers; parents and kinship and resource families; and youth.

27 The Commissioner of Health and Human Services shall assign to the special projects
 28 manager additional duties and assignments based on the development and progression of
 29 the cross-agency statewide prevention plan and priorities of the commissioner related to
 30 the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

31 **Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
 32 allocations are made.

33 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

34 **Department of Health and Human Services Central Operations 0142**

35 Initiative: Provides funding for one Social Services Manager I position to coordinate the
 36 organization of child abuse and neglect prevention initiatives across the department.

GENERAL FUND	2021-22	2022-23
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$121,700
All Other	\$0	\$6,537
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$128,237

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IV-E Foster Care/Adoption Assistance 0137

Initiative: Provides funding for additional services under the homebuilders program in the Office of Child and Family Services.

GENERAL FUND	2021-22	2022-23
All Other	\$0	\$1,000,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,000,000</u>

Office of Child and Family Services - Central 0307

Initiative: Provides funding for additional services under the parents as teachers program operated through the home visiting program in the Office of Child and Family Services.

GENERAL FUND	2021-22	2022-23
All Other	\$0	\$1,000,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,000,000</u>

Office of Child and Family Services - Central 0307

Initiative: Provides funding to increase the contract for kinship navigators.

GENERAL FUND	2021-22	2022-23
All Other	\$0	\$420,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$420,000</u>

Office of Child and Family Services - Central 0307

Initiative: Provides funding for temporary assistance to families through the Child Protective Services Contingency Fund.

GENERAL FUND	2021-22	2022-23
All Other	\$0	\$200,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$200,000</u>

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
DEPARTMENT OF
DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

	2021-22	2022-23
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$2,748,237
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$2,748,237</u>

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

SUMMARY

1
2 This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, replaces the bill, which
3 is a concept draft. The amendment does the following.

4 1. It provides \$1,000,000 each year for the homebuilders program and \$1,000,000 each
5 year for the parents as teachers program operated through the home visiting program of the
6 Department of Health and Human Services.

7 2. It provides \$420,000 a year to increase the contract the department has for so-called
8 kinship navigators.

9 3. It requires the department to study the ability of the State to allow a parent whose
10 minor child was removed from the home but who is engaged in rehabilitation and
11 reunification services to continue to receive services for which the parent was eligible
12 before the child was removed from custody and to receive priority for services for which
13 there is a waiting list and that are critical to allowing families to transition out of the child
14 welfare system. The department is directed to submit a report to the joint standing
15 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters
16 no later than February 1, 2023.

17 4. It provides \$200,000 funding in each year to the Child Protective Services
18 Contingency Fund established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 4004,
19 subsection 1, paragraph D. It requires the annual report that is currently required pursuant
20 to Title 22, section 4066 to include a summary of expenditures from the contingency fund.

21 5. It directs the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to establish a special
22 projects manager position within the department to coordinate the organization of child
23 abuse and neglect prevention initiatives across the department.

24 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

25 **(See attached)**