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Date: (Filing No. H-)

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

HOUSE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 640, L.D. 1004, “An Act to Allow a Qualifying Religious Organization to Self-insure for Automobile Insurance”

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

'Resolve, Directing the Secretary of State to Create a Working Group on Financial Responsibility for Certain Religious Organizations'

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

'Preamble. Whereas, there are religious groups living in the State that, due to their sincerely held beliefs, cannot adhere to traditional methods of vehicle insurance; and

Whereas, the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles upholds the laws that require all drivers to hold the legally required amount of financial responsibility in the event of an accident; and

Whereas, the need to ensure the safety of all drivers is shared by all stakeholders; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Financial responsibility working group. Resolved: That the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles shall convene a working group to study financial responsibility, including the feasibility of insurance alternatives, for some religious organizations in accordance with this section.

1. Membership. The Secretary of State shall appoint members to the working group. The working group consists of members listed as follows:

- A. The Secretary of State or the secretary's designee;
- B. The deputy secretary of state for the Bureau of Motor Vehicles or the deputy secretary's designee;
- C. Staff of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles;
- D. The Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee;
- E. The Treasurer of State or the treasurer's designee;
- F. A representative from the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance;

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- 1 G. A representative from a private insurance company;
 - 2 H. A representative of the insurance industry;
 - 3 I. Representatives from the Mennonite community; and
 - 4 J. A representative of an organization dedicated to the rights of consumers.
- 5 The Secretary of State may invite other members to participate in the working group to
6 provide additional perspectives, including legislative perspectives.
- 7 **2. Compensation.** Members of the working group may not be compensated for their
8 work on the working group.
- 9 **3. Duties.** Duties of the working group include:
- 10 A. Reviewing the State's current insurance requirements for motor vehicles;
 - 11 B. Examining and identifying financial responsibility options, including potential
12 alternatives to insurance practices in other states;
 - 13 C. Identifying possible changes to statute and any associated resource needs regarding
14 the establishment of alternatives to the State's current insurance program for religious
15 groups whose sincerely held beliefs preclude participation in traditional insurance; and
 - 16 D. Making recommendations based on the findings of the working group, with an
17 emphasis on creating an equitable system.
- 18 **4. Staff assistance.** The Department of the Secretary of State shall provide necessary
19 staffing services to the working group.
- 20 **5. Report.** The working group shall provide a report by January 15, 2024 containing
21 the findings and recommendations of the working group to the Joint Standing Committee
22 on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. The Joint Standing Committee on
23 Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services may submit legislation to the Second
24 Regular Session of the 131st Legislature based on the recommendations in the report.'
- 25 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
26 number to read consecutively.

27 SUMMARY

28 This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve. The amendment establishes a working
29 group, convened by the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, to study the financial
30 and vehicle insurance options for certain religious organizations whose sincerely held
31 religious beliefs preclude participation in traditional vehicle insurance.

32 **SPONSORED BY:** _____

33 (Representative PERRY, A.)

34 **TOWN:** Calais