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Date: (Filing No. H-)

HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 829, L.D. 1304, “Resolve, to Establish the Task Force to Study Barriers to Achieving Behavioral Health Integration and Parity”

Amend the resolve by striking out all of section 2 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved: That the task force consists of 13 members as follows:

- 1. Three members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate, including a member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;
- 2. Four members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House, including members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;
- 3. Two members representing entities knowledgeable about or involved in providing behavioral health services, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 4. Two members who are providers of behavioral health services and represent a small group practice, a federally qualified health center or a large group practice, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- 5. One member from the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health, designated by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services; and
- 6. One member from the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance, designated by the Superintendent of Insurance.'

Amend the resolve by striking out all of section 5 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved: That the task force shall study barriers experienced by providers in attempting to deliver behavioral health services that are related to requirements imposed by health insurance carriers and the MaineCare program and develop a plan, including specific legislative recommendations, to address and remove those barriers, allowing for better integrated care and parity in behavioral health treatment. The task force shall also study ways to improve access to behavioral health treatment in all geographic

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1 areas in the State and to address issues related to workforce shortages and training for
2 providers of behavioral health services.'

3 Amend the resolve by inserting after section 7 the following:

4 '**Sec. 8. Outside funding. Resolved:** That the task force may seek funding
5 contributions to partially or fully fund the costs of the study. All funding is subject to
6 approval by the Legislative Council in accordance with its policies.'

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

9 **SUMMARY**

10 This amendment makes the following changes to the Task Force to Study Barriers to
11 Achieving Behavioral Health Integration and Parity.

12 1. It amends the membership to add 2 additional members who are Legislators and to
13 reduce the number of members representing other interests.

14 2. It requires the inclusion of a representative of the Department of Health and Human
15 Services, Office of Behavioral Health.

16 3. It clarifies that the task force should consider barriers related to requirements
17 imposed by health insurance carriers and the MaineCare program.

18 4. It expands the duties of the task force to include studying increased access to
19 behavioral health treatment in all geographic areas of the State and to addressing workforce
20 and training issues.

21 5. It authorizes the task force to seek outside funding to support some or all of the costs
22 of the task force.

23 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

24 **(See attached)**