

Date: (Filing No. H- )

**HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1329, L.D. 1778, “An Act To Improve Health Care Affordability and Increase Options for Comprehensive Coverage for Individuals and Small Businesses in Maine”

Amend the bill by inserting after section 1 the following:

'Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §3124, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 459, §3, is amended to read:

**§3124. Annual public hearing**

~~Beginning in In~~ In 2022, the office shall convene ~~an annual~~ a public hearing on cost trends no later than October 1st. Beginning in 2023, the office shall convene an annual public hearing no later than October 1st on cost trends and barriers to health care affordability. The hearing must provide an opportunity for public comment on health care cost trends and, beginning in 2023, on barriers to health care affordability. The executive director shall preside over the hearing.'

Amend the bill in section 2 in the last paragraph in the last line (page 1, line 25 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "January 1, 2023" and inserting the following: 'January 1, 2024'

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

**SUMMARY**

This amendment requires that the Office of Affordable Health Care, beginning in 2023, expand the scope of its annual public hearing on cost trends to include barriers to health care affordability. The amendment specifies that the hearing must include an opportunity for public comment on these barriers. The amendment also extends the date for the office to report to the Legislature on its study of the effects of policies aimed at improving health care affordability and coverage from January 1, 2023 to January 1, 2024.

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

(See attached)

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**