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Date: (Filing No. S-)

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 168, L.D. 380, “An Act To Change the Statutory Cap on Virtual Public Charter School Enrollment”

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

'Resolve, To Establish the Remote Learning Task Force'

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

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Department of Education is responsible for the oversight of educational services for Maine's children; and

Whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic has created the need for schools and students to quickly adapt to remote learning; and

Whereas, some students are likely to continue to require remote learning options; and

Whereas, there is a need for the establishment of statewide guidance and standards related to remote learning; and

Whereas, this resolve establishes a task force to study issues related to remote learning and the study must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that it may be completed in time for a report to be submitted to the next legislative session; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved: That the Remote Learning Task Force, referred to in this resolve as "the task force," is established.

Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the task force consists of 14 members appointed as follows:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 1. Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including one
2 member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;

3 2. Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the
4 House of Representatives, including one member from each of the 2 parties holding the
5 largest number of seats in the Legislature;

6 3. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee;

7 4. A representative of the Maine Charter School Commission, appointed by the
8 Governor;

9 5. A parent or guardian of a student of a public school in the State, appointed by the
10 President of the Senate;

11 6. A representative of a statewide organization representing school principals,
12 appointed by the President of the Senate;

13 7. A representative of a statewide organization representing educators, appointed by
14 the President of the Senate;

15 8. A representative of the broadband industry, appointed by the President of the Senate;

16 9. A student of a Maine virtual charter school, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

17 10. A representative of a statewide organization representing school boards and
18 superintendents, appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

19 11. A representative of a statewide organization representing people with disabilities,
20 appointed by the Speaker of the House.

21 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is the Senate chair
22 and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the task force.

23 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of the task force. Resolved:** That all
24 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this
25 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative
26 Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members,
27 the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the task force. If 30 days or more after
28 the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been made, the
29 chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for the task
30 force to meet and conduct its business.

31 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall:

32 1. Assess the statewide demand for virtual learning opportunities for Maine students
33 in all grade levels, with a particular focus on grades 7 to 12;

34 2. Assess current capacity for virtual learning, including capacity at public schools,
35 charter schools and virtual charter schools;

36 3. Research best practices in virtual learning; and

37 4. Establish recommendations regarding virtual learning, including recommendations
38 for future legislation.

39 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the
40 Legislative Council shall provide necessary staffing services to the task force, except that

1 Legislative Council staff support is not authorized when the Legislature is in regular or
2 special session.

3 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 1, 2021, the task force
4 shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
5 that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, for
6 presentation to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature. The Joint Standing
7 Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs may report out legislation based on the
8 recommendations of the task force.

9 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
10 takes effect when approved.'

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

13 **SUMMARY**

14 This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve. The resolve establishes the Remote
15 Learning Task Force to assess the demand and capacity for virtual learning opportunities
16 for Maine students in all grade levels, with a particular focus on grades 7 to 12; to research
17 best practices in virtual learning; and to establish recommendations regarding virtual
18 learning, including recommendations for future legislation.

19 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

20 **(See attached)**