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Date: (Filing No. S- )

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

**STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
130TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 698, L.D. 1960, “An Act To Make Changes to the Laws Governing the Child Welfare Services Ombudsman Program”

Amend the bill by inserting before section 1 the following:

**'Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4004, sub-§1, ¶E,** as amended by PL 2017, c. 473, §1, is further amended to read:

E. Establishing a child death and serious injury review panel for reviewing deaths and serious injuries to children. The panel consists of the following members: the Chief Medical Examiner, a pediatrician, a public health nurse, forensic and community mental health clinicians, law enforcement officers, departmental child welfare staff, district attorneys ~~and~~, criminal or civil assistant attorneys general and the ombudsman pursuant to section 4087-A or a designee of the ombudsman.

The purpose of the panel is to recommend to state and local agencies methods of improving the child protection system, including modifications of statutes, rules, policies and procedures. Beginning January 1, 2023 and every 2 years thereafter, the department shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters;

**Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4008, sub-§3-A,** as enacted by PL 1993, c. 294, §4, is amended to read:

**3-A. Confidentiality.** The proceedings and records of the child death and serious injury review panel created in accordance with section 4004, subsection 1, paragraph E are confidential and are not subject to subpoena, discovery or introduction into evidence in a civil or criminal action. The commissioner shall disclose conclusions of the review panel upon request and recommendations pursuant to section 4004, subsection 1, paragraph E, but may not disclose data that is otherwise classified as confidential.'

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

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

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**SUMMARY**

This amendment includes the ombudsman or the ombudsman's designee as a member of the child death and serious injury review panel established by the Department of Health and Human Services and requires that the panel, beginning January 1, 2023 and every 2 years thereafter, submit a report on the panel's recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters.