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EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 517, L.D. 705, “Resolve, To Improve Air Quality and Ventilation in Maine's Public Schools”

Amend the resolve in section 1 in the 2nd line (page 1, line 2 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "rule" and inserting the following: 'rules Chapter 60: New School Siting Approval, Chapter 61: State Board of Education Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects and'

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

SUMMARY

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. It adds language requiring the Department of Education to amend Chapter 60 and Chapter 61 of its rules, in addition to Chapter 125.

The amendment also incorporates a fiscal note. The fiscal note states that, to the extent that the newly defined air quality standards require some schools to upgrade their existing systems or install new systems, expenditure of local revenue may be required, and, as a result, the fiscal note flags the resolve as a potential mandate. The committee reviewed the fiscal note, and the majority of the committee determined that the requirements of the resolve do not amount to a mandate. The department rules in Chapter 125 already require that rooms used for instructional purposes have "sufficient air changes to produce healthful conditions and to avoid odors or concentrations of toxic substances or dust particles." They also state that if the "heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems are mechanically driven, they shall be maintained and in compliance with HVAC regulations and rules." The committee notes that the resolve merely directs the department to amend its rules to require standards governing air quality. In other words, the resolve requires the department to better define standards, but the requirement that systems be maintained in compliance with HVAC rules and regulations already exists. As such, the majority of the

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 517, L.D. 705

1 committee believes that this is not a new requirement for school districts, but rather a
2 clarification of an existing requirement.

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FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

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(See attached)