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Date: (Filing No. H-)

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 518, L.D. 829, “An Act to Improve Behavioral Health Support for Students in Public Schools”

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §15672, sub-§1-E is enacted to read:

1-E. Clinical mental health provider. "Clinical mental health provider" means a licensed clinical social worker, licensed clinical professional counselor, licensed alcohol and drug counselor or licensed pastoral counselor.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §15679, sub-§2, ¶A, as amended by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. C, §33, is further amended by amending subparagraph (2) to read:

(2) The student-to-guidance staff ratio is ~~350:1~~ 250:1;

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §15679, sub-§2, ¶A, as amended by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. C, §33, is further amended by enacting a new subparagraph (2-A) to read:

(2-A) The student-to-clinical mental health provider ratio is 250:1;

Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §15679, sub-§2, ¶A, as amended by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. C, §33, is further amended by enacting a new subparagraph (2-B) to read:

(2-B) The student-to-school psychologist ratio is 500:1;

Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §15679, sub-§2, ¶B, as amended by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. C, §33, is further amended by enacting a new subparagraph (2-A) to read:

(2-A) The student-to-clinical mental health provider ratio is 250:1;

Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §15679, sub-§2, ¶B, as amended by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. C, §33, is further amended by enacting a new subparagraph (2-B) to read:

(2-B) The student-to-school psychologist ratio is 500:1;

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 **Sec. 7. Behavior analyst training pilot program authorized.** The Department
 2 of Education may establish a pilot program in conjunction with the University of Southern
 3 Maine to provide behavior analyst training skills for 15 to 20 public school staff. The staff
 4 who participate in the pilot program must be chosen from geographically diverse locations
 5 across the State. At the end of the pilot program, the University of Southern Maine shall
 6 report to the Department of Education on the participation in and success of the program.

7 **Sec. 8. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
 8 allocations are made.

9 **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

10 **General Purpose Aid for Local Schools 0308**

11 Initiative: Provides ongoing funds for the State's share of the cost of lowering the student-
 12 to-guidance staff ratio for elementary and middle schools from 350:1 to 250:1 when
 13 calculating salary and benefit costs in the essential programs and services funding formula.

14 GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
15 All Other	\$5,500,000	\$5,500,000
16		
17 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$5,500,000</u>	<u>\$5,500,000</u>

18 **General Purpose Aid for Local Schools 0308**

19 Initiative: Provides ongoing funds for the State's share of the cost of establishing a student-
 20 to-clinical mental health provider ratio for elementary, middle and high schools at 250:1
 21 when calculating salary and benefit costs in the essential programs and services funding
 22 formula.

23 GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
24 All Other	\$36,300,000	\$36,300,000
25		
26 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$36,300,000</u>	<u>\$36,300,000</u>

27 **General Purpose Aid for Local Schools 0308**

28 Initiative: Provides ongoing funds for the State's share of the cost of establishing a student-
 29 to-school psychologist ratio for elementary, middle and high schools at 500:1 when
 30 calculating salary and benefit costs in the essential programs and services funding formula.

31 GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
32 All Other	\$39,600,000	\$39,600,000
33		
34 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$39,600,000</u>	<u>\$39,600,000</u>

36 **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**
 37 **DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

38	2023-24	2024-25
39 GENERAL FUND	\$81,400,000	\$81,400,000
40		
41 DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$81,400,000</u>	<u>\$81,400,000</u>

42 '

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

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, replaces the bill and
5 changes the title. It provides that, for the purpose of the calculation of salary and benefit
6 costs in the school funding formula for elementary schools, middle schools and high
7 schools, the following ratios apply.

8 1. For the student-to-guidance staff ratio, it lowers the ratio for the elementary and
9 middle school level from 350:1 to 250:1.

10 2. It adds a student-to-clinical mental health provider ratio for the elementary, middle
11 school and high school levels at 250:1. The amendment defines “clinical mental health
12 provider” to include licensed clinical social workers, licensed clinical professional
13 counselors, licensed alcohol and drug counselors and licensed pastoral counselors.

14 3. It adds a student-to-school psychologist ratio for the elementary, middle school and
15 high school levels at 500:1.

16 The amendment also provides that the Department of Education may establish a pilot
17 program in conjunction with the University of Southern Maine to provide behavior analyst
18 training skills for 15 to 20 public school staff, chosen from geographically diverse locations
19 across the State, and it directs the University of Southern Maine to report to the department
20 on the participation in and success of the program.

21 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

22 **(See attached)**