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Date: (Filing No. H- )

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 571, L.D. 915, “Resolve, to Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Organization of and Service Delivery by the Department of Health and Human Services”

Amend the resolve by inserting after the title 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,** this legislation establishes the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Organization of and Service Delivery by the Department of Health and Human Services; and

**Whereas,** this legislation must take effect before the expiration of the 90-day period so that the commission may timely meet and make its report to the Legislature; 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,'

Amend the resolve by striking out all of sections 2 and 3 and inserting the following:

**'Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the commission consists of 13 members as follows:

1. Three members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including one member of the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature and one member of the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Legislature;

2. Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, including one member of the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature and one member of the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Legislature;

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1           3. Two members appointed by the President of the Senate, one of whom must have  
2 lived experience in caring for one of the following types of individuals and one who  
3 represents the interests of at least 2 of the following types of individuals or providers of  
4 care to at least 2 of the following types of individuals:

- 5           A. Individuals with intellectual disabilities or autism;
- 6           B. Individuals with mental health disorders or substance use disorder;
- 7           C. Individuals experiencing poverty;
- 8           D. Elderly individuals;
- 9           E. Children receiving child welfare services; or
- 10          F. Children receiving early childhood services;

11          4. Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one of  
12 whom must have lived experience in caring for one of the following types of individuals  
13 and one who represents the interests of at least 2 of the following types of individuals or  
14 providers of care to at least 2 of the following types of individuals:

- 15          A. Individuals with intellectual disabilities or autism;
- 16          B. Individuals with mental health disorders or substance use disorder;
- 17          C. Individuals experiencing poverty;
- 18          D. Elderly individuals;
- 19          E. Children receiving child welfare services; or
- 20          F. Children receiving early childhood services;

21          5. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee;  
22 and

23          6. Two directors of offices within the Department of Health and Human Services  
24 chosen by the commissioner.

25          **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is the Senate chair  
26 and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the  
27 commission.'

28          Amend the resolve by striking out all of sections 5, 6 and 7 and inserting the following:

29          **'Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall examine the organizational  
30 structure of the Department of Health and Human Services and the services provided by  
31 the department. The commission shall examine:

- 32           1. The organizational structure of and service delivery by similar agencies in other  
33 states and in nongovernmental organizations;
- 34           2. The strengths and weaknesses in the services provided with state and federal  
35 funding;
- 36           3. Current proposals for improving the safety and well-being of children and  
37 strengthening families across all populations and geographical areas of the State;
- 38           4. Barriers to accessing services, as well as system failures and additional needed  
39 resources; and

1 5. Areas in which processes can be streamlined and efficiencies made within the  
2 department.

3 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Legislative Council shall provide  
4 necessary staffing services to the commission, except that Legislative Council staff support  
5 is not authorized when the Legislature is in regular or special session.

6 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than November 6, 2024, the commission  
7 shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested  
8 legislation, for presentation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having  
9 jurisdiction over health and human services matters. The committee may submit legislation  
10 to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.'

11 Amend the resolve by adding before the summary the following:

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

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

#### 16 SUMMARY

17 This amendment makes the following changes to the Blue Ribbon Commission to  
18 Study the Organization of and Service Delivery by the Department of Health and Human  
19 Services.

- 20 1. It changes the membership of the commission.
- 21 2. It expands the duties of the commission.
- 22 3. It replaces staffing by the Office of Program Evaluation and Government  
23 Accountability with staffing by the Legislative Council.
- 24 4. It changes the date for the report from December 1, 2024 to November 6, 2024.
- 25 5. It adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause.

#### 26 FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

27 (See attached)