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Date: (Filing No. H-)

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 905, L.D. 1409, “An Act to Require Reimbursement When a Municipality Hires First Responders Whose Training Costs Were Incurred by Another Municipality”

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

'Resolve, to Establish a Task Force to Study Sharing the Costs of Training First Responders Among Governmental Entities'

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, state and local governmental entities struggle to hire and retain first responders to protect and assist Maine residents in times of emergency; and

Whereas, during the past 2 sessions of the Legislature, commissions have been established to study, among other matters, ways to improve the emergency services available across the State; and

Whereas, the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State recommended, in its January 2024 report, that the Legislature enact legislation to provide for cost sharing of training among emergency medical services entities; and

Whereas, the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government has unanimously voted that cost sharing among state and local governmental entities in a fair and efficient manner needs further consideration before passage into law; and

Whereas, this legislation establishes the Task Force to Study Sharing the Costs of Training First Responders Among Governmental Entities; and

Whereas, pursuant to the Joint Rules, the report from any legislative study committee established to conduct work after adjournment of a second regular session of the Legislature must be submitted by the first Wednesday in November; and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 **Whereas**, the joint standing committee unanimously voted that the period between 90
2 days after adjournment of this session and the first Wednesday of November is inadequate
3 time for the Task Force to Study Sharing the Costs of Training First Responders Among
4 Governmental Entities to address this complex matter; and

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

9 **Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:** That the Task Force to Study Sharing
10 the Costs of Training First Responders Among Governmental Entities, referred to in this
11 resolve as "the task force," is established. For purposes of this resolve, "first responder"
12 includes, but is not limited to, an individual providing fire protection services, emergency
13 medical services and emergency dispatch services.

14 **Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule
15 353, the task force consists of 18 members as follows:

16 1. Two members of the Senate from the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats
17 in the Legislature, appointed by the President of the Senate;

18 2. Two members of the House of Representatives from the 2 parties holding the largest
19 number of seats in the Legislature, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

20 3. Six members appointed by the President of the Senate as follows:

21 A. One member representing the Maine Sheriffs' Association for county-operated
22 public safety answering points;

23 B. One member representing the Maine Ambulance Association;

24 C. One member representing the Maine Fire Chiefs' Association who provides fire
25 protection services on a volunteer basis;

26 D. One member representing the Maine Fire Chiefs' Association who provides fire
27 protection services on a full-time basis;

28 E. One member representing the Maine County Commissioners Association; and

29 F. One member who serves in municipal or county government;

30 4. Six members appointed by the Speaker of the House as follows:

31 A. One member representing the Maine Chiefs of Police Association with experience
32 managing a dispatch center for law enforcement, fire protection or emergency medical
33 services;

34 B. One member representing the Maine Municipal Association;

35 C. One member representing the Maine Fire Chiefs' Association who provides both
36 fire protection services and emergency medical services;

37 D. One member of a state public safety answering point designated by the Department
38 of Public Safety;

39 E. One member representing the Emergency Medical Services' Board established in
40 the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, section 88; and

1 F. One member representing Maine Emergency Medical Services established in the
2 Maine Revised Statutes, Title 25, section 2901;

3 5. The State of Maine Fire Training Director within the Maine Fire Service Institute
4 or the director's designee; and

5 6. The director of the Emergency Services Communication Bureau within the Public
6 Utilities Commission or the director's designee.

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

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

17 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That, to determine an equitable method to provide
18 reimbursement to a governmental entity for training and credentialing costs incurred by the
19 governmental entity for a first responder who ends service with the governmental entity
20 soon after receiving the training and credentialing, the task force shall:

21 1. Determine the training and credentialing required for first responders working in
22 the State;

23 2. Determine additional training or credentialing desired for first responders working
24 in the State;

25 3. Determine whether factors such as level of salary, travel costs, tuition costs,
26 overtime costs, equipment costs and health screening costs should be included in the
27 baseline calculation of costs;

28 4. Determine whether costs differ on a regional basis and whether any such differences
29 should be factored into the calculation;

30 5. Determine if other resources are available or should be made available to reduce the
31 burden of training and credentialing costs on a governmental entity;

32 6. Review the possible methods for sharing the training and credentialing costs of first
33 responders among governmental entities;

34 7. Submit recommendations for an equitable approach to creating a scaled
35 reimbursement schedule for the cost of training and credentialing an employee between
36 governmental entities when an employee is subsequently hired by another governmental
37 entity within a certain period of time; and

38 8. Undertake any other activity determined necessary by a majority of the task force.

39 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Legislative Council shall provide
40 necessary staffing services to the task force, except that Legislative Council staff support
41 is not authorized when the Legislature is in regular or special session.

