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Date: (Filing No. H-)

HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 961, L.D. 1506, “Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Study the Scarcity of Licensed Clinical Behavioral Health Professionals Across the State”

Amend the resolve by striking out all of section 1 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. Department of Health and Human Services study required; training and recruitment of clinical behavioral health care professionals. Resolved: That the Department of Health and Human Services shall convene a stakeholder group to study issues related to the training and recruitment of clinical behavioral health care professionals. At a minimum, the department shall invite to be members of the stakeholder group representatives of major health care providers in the State, representatives of major behavioral health care providers in the State, representatives of a major mental health organization in the State and representatives of the Consumer Council System of Maine, licensed clinical social workers, licensed professional counselors, the Department of Labor and the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation. The stakeholder group shall review issues related to: the current number of psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, clinical social workers, psychological nurse practitioners and licensed clinical professional counselors currently practicing in the State; the number of those professionals serving MaineCare patients; the number of additional professionals needed to meet the current unmet need in the State; the state of current waiting lists for mental health treatment; access to educational opportunities to train clinical behavioral health care professionals in the State; costs associated with education programs for clinical behavioral health care professionals in the State; methods to enable individuals to work in the clinical behavioral health care field while attaining a degree or certification, including opportunities to count time working in the field toward attaining an advanced degree or certification; and ways to recruit clinical behavioral health care professionals from out of state. The Department of Health and Human Services may contract for services of a consultant to provide staffing to the stakeholder group, including convening, facilitating and providing research for the stakeholder group. By February 1, 2024, the department shall submit a report related to the study, including recommendations and any suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services and the Joint Standing
2 Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business. Each
3 committee may report out a bill relating to the report to the Second Regular Session of the
4 131st Legislature.

5 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following
6 appropriations and allocations are made.

7 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**
8 **Mental Health Services - Community Z198**

9 Initiative: Provides one-time funding to contract with a 3rd party to design and develop a
10 survey tool, to convene stakeholders and to generate a report.

11 GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
12 All Other	\$450,000	\$0
13		
14 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$450,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>

15 ' .

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

18 **SUMMARY**

19 This amendment makes the following changes.

20 1. It adds representatives of the Consumer Council System of Maine, the Department
21 of Labor and the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation as members of the
22 stakeholder group.

23 2. It authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to contract for services
24 to convene, facilitate and provide research for the stakeholder group.

25 3. It extends the reporting deadline from December 6, 2023 to February 1, 2024.

26 4. It requires the report to be submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Health
27 Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services and the Joint Standing Committee on
28 Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business and permits each
29 committee to report out a bill relating to the report to the Second Regular Session of the
30 131st Legislature.

31 5. It adds an appropriations and allocations section.

32 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

33 **(See attached)**