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HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1069, L.D. 1615, “An Act to Expand Access to Oral Health Care by Creating a New Path for Obtaining a License to Practice Dentistry”

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

'Resolve, to Expand Access to Oral Health Care by Studying Alternative Pathways for Obtaining a License to Practice Dentistry'

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, this resolve establishes a commission to study alternative pathways for obtaining a license to practice dentistry; and

Whereas, it is important to conduct this evaluation to address workforce shortages that impact the availability of oral health care services to Maine residents; and

Whereas, this legislation must take effect as soon as possible in order to provide adequate time for the commission to complete its work in a timely manner before submitting its report; 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, be it

Sec. 1. Commission to Expand Access to Oral Health Care by Studying Alternative Pathways for Obtaining a License to Practice Dentistry established. Resolved: That the Commission to Expand Access to Oral Health Care by Studying Alternative Pathways for Obtaining a License to Practice Dentistry, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established.

1 **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule
2 353, the commission consists of 11 members appointed as follows:

3 1. Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate, at least one
4 of whom must be a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage,
5 Insurance and Financial Services;

6 2. Two members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the
7 House of Representatives, at least one of whom must be a member of the Joint Standing
8 Committee on Health and Human Services;

9 3. One member who is a member of the Board of Dental Practice, appointed by the
10 Board of Dental Practice;

11 4. One member who is a representative of the Maine Dental Association, appointed by
12 the President of the Senate;

13 5. One member who is a representative of federally qualified health centers that provide
14 dental services, appointed by the President of the Senate;

15 6. One member who is a dentist licensed to practice in the State, appointed by the
16 President of the Senate;

17 7. One member who is a foreign-trained dentist, appointed by the Speaker of the House
18 of Representatives;

19 8. One member who is a representative of the Maine Dental Hygienists' Association,
20 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

21 9. One member representing the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation,
22 Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation, appointed by the Governor.

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

26 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved:** That all
27 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this
28 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative
29 Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members,
30 the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission. If 30 days or more
31 after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been
32 made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for
33 the commission to meet and conduct its business.

34 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall study integrating foreign-
35 trained dentists and out-of-state dentists into the dental care workforce in a way that best
36 reflects their level of skills and training and reducing barriers to licensing for foreign-
37 trained dentists and dentists from other states. The commission shall explore a wide range
38 of options for how to help enable foreign-trained dentists and out-of-state dentists who wish
39 to live and practice in the State to address potential workforce shortages. The commission
40 shall make recommendations on:

41 1. Strategies to integrate foreign-trained dentists and dentists from other states into the
42 State's dental care workforce;

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1069, L.D. 1615

1 The commission is required to submit its report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health
2 Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services no later than January 15, 2026.

3 The amendment also adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause.

4 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

5 **(See attached)**