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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. 1186, L.D. 1856, “Resolve, to Study the Establishment of a MaineCare Public Health Plan ”

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

'Resolve, to Study the Establishment of a Public Option Health Benefit Plan'

Amend the resolve by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. Office of Affordable Health Care study of health care and coverage. Resolved: That, when conducting the study required by Public Law 2021, chapter 518, the Office of Affordable Health Care shall prioritize consideration of the creation of a public option health benefit plan that takes the form of either a buy-in to the MaineCare program or a fully publicly administered plan that may be eligible for advanced premium tax credits through the Maine Health Insurance Marketplace established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 5403. The office shall also consider other models to address the availability and affordability of health coverage in the State and ways that the State may leverage available federal-state innovation waivers to improve affordability for consumers. Notwithstanding Public Law 2021, chapter 518, the office shall submit a report that prioritizes the consideration of a public option health benefit plan and other models as described in this resolve to the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services no later than January 31, 2024. The committee may submit legislation in response to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature. The office shall submit a report fulfilling the remaining requirements in Public Law 2021, chapter 518 no later than January 31, 2025.'

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

SUMMARY

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. The amendment replaces the resolve and changes the title. Public Law 2021, chapter 518 directs the Office of Affordable Health Care to study the effects of policies aimed at improving health care affordability

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 and coverage and the effects of the policies on enrollment in comprehensive health
2 coverage, including consideration of a public option health benefit plan. This amendment
3 requires the office to prioritize studying the creation of a public option health benefit plan
4 that takes the form of a fully publicly administered plan eligible for advanced premium tax
5 credits through the Maine Health Insurance Marketplace or a buy-in to the MaineCare
6 program. The amendment also directs the office to consider other models to address the
7 availability and affordability of health coverage in the State and ways that the State may
8 leverage federal-state innovation waivers to improve affordability for consumers. This
9 amendment also provides for phased-in submission of the reports.