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Date: (Filing No. H-)

TAXATION

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
129TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1517, L.D. 2127, “An Act To Support Farmland Preservation by Allowing the Siting of Solar Energy Installations on Land Enrolled in the Farm and Open Space Tax Law Program”

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

'Resolve, To Identify Opportunities To Support Both Farmland Conservation and Local Energy Production by Amending Current Use Tax Laws or Other State and Local Policies'

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

'Sec. 1. Study of opportunities to support both farmland conservation and local energy production by amending current use tax laws or other state and local policies. Resolved: That the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall establish a working group to study the challenges and opportunities facing farmers and farmland owners considering the installation of solar or other local energy generation. The working group shall consider the impact of property taxes, solar energy siting and design decisions and other factors on the use and long-term conservation of agricultural land that is enrolled in the farm and open space tax program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, chapter 105, subchapter 10 where solar energy installations are located. The working group must include representatives designated by the State Tax Assessor and by statewide organizations representing municipal governments, solar energy developers, farmers and farmland conservation. The working group shall consider and recommend policies to encourage solar energy installations to be sited on farmland and incorporated into farming activities in ways that will help keep land in farming and protect prime farmland. At a minimum, the policies that are considered must include, but are not limited to, tax policy, farm and municipal viability, dual use methods of production and soil health as means to achieve this objective. The department shall submit a report on the findings and recommendations of the working group to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over taxation matters and agriculture, conservation and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 forestry matters by April 15, 2021. Either committee may submit a bill related to the report
2 to the First Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.'

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

5 **SUMMARY**

6 This amendment changes the bill to a resolve directing the Department of Agriculture,
7 Conservation and Forestry to form a working group to study the impact of property taxes
8 and other factors on the use of agricultural land that is enrolled in the farm and open space
9 tax program where solar energy installations are located and to recommend policies to
10 support and encourage the generation and use of solar energy on farmland in ways that will
11 help protect farmland.

12 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

13 **(See attached)**