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Date: (Filing No. S-)

JUDICIARY

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 33, L.D. 20, “An Act Regarding the First Judicial District and the District Court Locations in the Judicial Divisions of Androscoggin and Western Aroostook”

Amend the bill by inserting after section 4 the following:

'Sec. 5. Reallocation of Western Aroostook and Eastern Aroostook judicial divisions. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 4, section 153, subsections 3 and 4, for the convenience of the public, the Chief Judge of the District Court may, by order, which may from time to time be amended or repealed, reallocate any municipality or unorganized territory between the Western Aroostook and Eastern Aroostook judicial divisions. Copies of the order must be posted on the judicial branch's publicly accessible website.

Sec. 6. Report. By January 15, 2026, the Chief Judge of the District Court shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary with any recommendations for redrawing the geographic boundaries between any of the judicial divisions set forth in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 4, section 153. The committee may report out legislation based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

Sec. 7. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

Courts - Supreme, Superior and District 0063

Initiative: Provides ongoing deappropriations due to the closure of the district court in Madawaska.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	(\$5,416)	(\$6,500)
All Other	(\$38,640)	(\$46,368)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	(\$44,056)	(\$52,868)

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

SUMMARY

This amendment authorizes the Chief Judge of the District Court to issue an order, which must be made publicly available, reallocating any municipality or unorganized territory between the Western Aroostook and Eastern Aroostook judicial divisions of the State. The amendment also directs the Chief Judge to submit a report by January 15, 2026 to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary with recommendations for redrawing the geographic boundaries between any of the judicial divisions in the State and authorizes the committee to report out legislation based on the report.

The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section recognizing the cost savings attendant to closure of the Madawaska District Court.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)