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Date: (Filing No. S- )

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
130TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 53, L.D. 792, “An Act To Make Technical Changes to the Eligibility Provisions of the Higher Opportunity for Pathways to Employment Program”

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

**'Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3790-A, sub-§2, ¶C,** as enacted by PL 2017, c. 387, §1, is amended to read:

C. ~~Is pursuing a postsecondary undergraduate degree, industry-recognized certificate or similar credential in a field or occupation that has at least an average job outlook as identified by the Center for Workforce Research and Information within the Department of Labor~~ is identified by the Center for Workforce Research and Information within the Department of Labor as having an annual job opening rate of at least 10% or as providing opportunity for employment in high-wage, in-demand jobs in the State at the time of enrollment. ~~For fields or occupations for which the job outlook is lower than average not so identified,~~ the commissioner or the commissioner's designee must approve the applicant's or participant's education plan. ~~If the applicant or participant is pursuing a postsecondary undergraduate 4-year degree, it must be in a health care, technology or engineering field as specified in department rules if the plan will result in a postsecondary degree, certificate or similar credential that is universally recognized and accepted by the trade or industry in which the applicant or participant intends to seek employment or is part of a career pathway plan that will lead to a similarly accepted degree or credential and is likely to provide an opportunity for employment in a job that will lead to substantial improvement in the applicant's or participant's earnings and benefits;'~~

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

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

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**SUMMARY**

This amendment, which is the unanimous report of the committee, strikes and replaces the bill. It provides that a participant's or applicant's participation in the Higher Opportunity for Pathways to Employment Program must be approved if that participant's or applicant's field or occupation is identified as providing opportunity for employment in a high-wage, in-demand job or a job with an annual job opening rate of at least 10% as determined by the Center for Workforce Research and Information within the Department of Labor. It also provides that, if the applicant's or participant's education plan does not provide such an opportunity, the plan must be approved by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee if it results in a postsecondary certificate, degree or similar credential universally recognized and accepted by a trade or industry or a similarly accepted degree or credential that will likely substantially improve the participant's earnings and benefits.