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JUDICIARY

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
129TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 211, L.D. 698, Bill, “An Act To Authorize Maine Courts To Award Attorney's Fees and Costs to Citizens Who Prevail in Civil Litigation against the Executive Branch”

Amend the bill in section 1 in §1501-A in the last line (page 1, line 9 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "shall" and inserting the following: 'may'

Amend the bill by inserting after section 1 the following:

'Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE
Administration - Attorney General 0310**

Initiative: Establishes a half-time Assistant Attorney General position and provides funding for related All Other costs beginning October 1, 2019.

GENERAL FUND	2019-20	2020-21
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.500	0.500
Personal Services	\$46,708	\$62,278
All Other	\$5,534	\$7,379
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$52,242</u>	<u>\$69,657</u>

SUMMARY

The bill requires the court to award reasonable attorney's fees to a citizen or citizens that prevail in litigation against the Governor or any agency of the executive branch if the citizen or citizens demonstrate that the defendant knowingly violated the law. This amendment gives the court in that situation the discretion to award reasonable attorney's

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 211, L.D. 698

1 fees to be paid to the prevailing citizen or citizens. The amendment also adds an
2 appropriations and allocations section.

3

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

4

(See attached)