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Date: (Filing No. S-)

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 303, L.D. 1024, Bill, “An Act To Include Mental Health Education in Maine Schools”

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

'An Act To Destigmatize Mental Illness through Health Instruction That Emphasizes the Relationship between Physical and Mental Health in Schools'

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

'Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4711, as amended by PL 2009, c. 313, §11, is further amended to read:

§4711. Elementary course of study

The basic course of study for the elementary schools must provide for the instruction of all students in career and education development, English language arts, world languages, health education and physical education, mathematics, science and technology, social studies and visual and performing arts, as described in the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements subject to the schedule specified in section 6209. Health education must include instruction that addresses the relationship between physical and mental health in order to enhance student understanding of attitudes toward and behavior relating to mental illness and to eliminate the stigma associated with mental illness.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §4712, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 313, §12, is amended to read:

§4712. Junior high school or middle school course of study

The basic course of study for the junior high schools or middle schools must provide for the instruction of all students in career and education development, English language arts, health education and physical education, mathematics, science and technology, social studies, visual and performing arts and world languages, as described in the

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements subject to the schedule
2 specified in section 6209. Health education must include instruction that addresses the
3 relationship between physical and mental health in order to enhance student
4 understanding of attitudes toward and behavior relating to mental illness and to eliminate
5 the stigma associated with mental illness.

6 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRS §4723, first ¶**, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 859, Pt. C, §§5 and
7 7, is amended to read:

8 The secondary course of study ~~shall~~ must include instruction in health, safety and
9 physical education, as prescribed by the commissioner, and physiology and hygiene, with
10 special reference to the effects of alcoholic drinks, stimulants and narcotics upon the
11 human system. Health education must include instruction that addresses the relationship
12 between physical and mental health in order to enhance student understanding of attitudes
13 toward and behavior relating to mental illness and to eliminate the stigma associated with
14 mental illness.'

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

17 **SUMMARY**

18 The bill requires health education instruction in elementary, middle, junior high and
19 high school to include instruction in mental health and the relationship between physical
20 and mental health. This amendment clarifies that health education must include
21 instruction that addresses the relationship between physical and mental health in order to
22 enhance student understanding of attitudes toward and behavior relating to mental illness
23 and to eliminate the stigma associated with mental illness.

24 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

25 **(See attached)**