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Date: (Filing No. S-)

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
130TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 368, L.D. 1107, “An Act To Create Needed Broadband Infrastructure in Rural Maine through the Establishment of a Satellite-based Broadband Grant Program”

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

'Resolve, Directing the Maine Connectivity Authority To Take Further Actions To Bring High-speed Broadband to Unserved Areas'

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

'Sec. 1. Regional partnership strategies. Resolved: That the Maine Connectivity Authority, established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 9404 and referred to in this resolve as "the authority," shall seek to encourage and support regional partnerships among appropriate entities to identify and implement strategies to bring high-speed broadband to unserved areas of the State. The strategies must involve approaches and models that recognize and address population densities and the high cost of providing service to low-density areas; ensure the inclusion of services to all individuals and communities, including the most disadvantaged populations, within the area, commonly referred to as “digital inclusion”; and ensure the capacity of relevant communities to undertake a comprehensive approach to bringing broadband to the area. The strategies must involve consideration of requirements to receive available funding for expanding high-speed broadband connectivity as well as the critical nature of providing the connectivity in a time frame that meets the needs of the area.

Sec. 2. Reports. Resolved: That the authority shall, by January 15, 2023, report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy, utilities and technology matters any federally approved plans for funding the activities described in section 1, including from the United States Department of the Treasury’s Capital Projects Fund or the United States Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program funded by the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.'

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve that directs the Maine Connectivity
5 Authority to:

6 1. Encourage regional partnerships among appropriate entities to identify and
7 implement strategies to bring high-speed broadband to unserved areas of the State; and

8 2. Report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
9 energy, utilities and technology matters any federally approved plans for funding these
10 activities, including through the United States Department of the Treasury’s Capital
11 Projects Fund or the United States Department of Commerce, National
12 Telecommunications and Information Administration’s Broadband Equity, Access, and
13 Deployment Program funded by the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

14 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

15 **(See attached)**