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Date: (Filing No. S-)

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 679, L.D. 1924, “An Act To Expand Access to Justice in Rural Maine through Legal Education”

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

Sec. 1. Rural practice clinic pilot project established. The University of Maine System shall establish a rural practice clinic in Aroostook County as a 3-year pilot project of the existing legal aid clinic of the University of Maine School of Law.

Sec. 2. Report. The University of Maine System shall submit an interim report no later than January 15, 2024 and a final report no later than January 15, 2025 to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters, judiciary matters and appropriations and financial affairs on the rural practice clinic pilot project established pursuant to section 1. The report must include, but is not limited to, the number, by county, of clients served by the University of Maine School of Law's legal aid clinic, including through the rural practice clinic pilot project, any barriers to the success of the pilot project, how the rural practice clinic might be replicated in other rural areas of the State and plans and recommendations, including any suggested legislation, for the future of the rural practice clinic.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
Educational and General Activities - UMS 0031**

Initiative: Provides funding for the first year of a 3-year pilot program to establish a rural practice clinic in Aroostook County as part of the existing legal aid clinic at the University of Maine School of Law.

GENERAL FUND	2021-22	2022-23
All Other	\$0	\$340,000
	_____	_____

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 GENERAL FUND TOTAL \$0 \$340,000

2

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

5

SUMMARY

6 This amendment requires the University of Maine System to establish a rural practice
7 clinic in Aroostook County as a 3-year pilot project of the legal aid clinic of the University
8 of Maine School of Law, currently known as the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic, and
9 requires the University of Maine System to report back on the pilot project with an interim
10 report no later than January 15, 2024 and a final report no later than January 15, 2025.

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FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

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(See attached)