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Date: (Filing No. S-)

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 732, L.D. 1817, “An Act to Support Outdoor Education by Establishing the Outdoor School for All Maine Students Program”

Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:

Emergency preamble. **Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the residents of this State are surrounded by vast natural landscapes and young people in this State deserve to learn about and value this State's natural resources; and

Whereas, this legislation establishes an immersive outdoor education program that provides interdisciplinary and experiential education in an outdoor setting, and this legislation creates equitable opportunities for students across this State to have outdoor experiences; and

Whereas, many children in this State lack opportunities to enjoy and learn about the outdoors because of home circumstances, lack of access or transportation or a deficiency of suitable school or community-based programs; and

Whereas, this State prioritizes strong academic programs for children, including learning focused on science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and recognizes that students learn differently and benefit from engaging, hands-on experiential outdoor learning opportunities; and

Whereas, the Outdoor School for All Maine Students Program prepares young people in this State for future success, builds self-awareness and confidence and is an opportunity to instill the importance of the State's natural resources industries by encouraging future generations of farmers, foresters, persons who fish commercially and others working outdoors or as stewards of the State's natural resources; and

Whereas, the Outdoor School for All Maine Students Program will begin in school year 2023-2024; and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 **Whereas**, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
2 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
3 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
4 therefore,'

5 Amend the bill in section 1 in c. 433 in §5301 in subsection 3 in the last 2 lines (page
6 1, lines 15 and 16 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "qualifies as a tax-exempt
7 organization under 26 United States Code, Section 501(c)(3) that"

8 Amend the bill in section 1 in c. 433 in §5302 in subsection 1 in the first line (page 1,
9 line 18 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "Extension" the following: 'Service'

10 Amend the bill in section 1 in c. 433 in §5302 in subsection 2 in the first line (page 1,
11 line 22 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "Extension" the following: 'Service'

12 Amend the bill in section 1 in c. 433 in §5302 in subsection 2 by striking out all of
13 paragraph B (page 1, lines 27 to 30 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

14 'B. Used to serve publicly funded students enrolled in grade 4 to grade 8 in schools
15 operated by tribal school committees or students enrolled in grade 4 to grade 8 in
16 publicly funded schools in the State, as determined by the sending school
17 administrative unit and the outdoor education program provider based on community
18 needs and the curriculum. A student receiving home-school instruction is eligible to
19 participate in the program under this section as provided by Title 20-A, section 5021.
20 For purposes of this paragraph, "publicly funded school" means a school required to
21 participate in the system of learning results established in Title 20-A, section 6209;'

22 Amend the bill in section 1 in c. 433 in §5303 in subsection 2 by striking out all of
23 paragraph A (page 2, lines 30 and 31 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

24 'A. Comply with the requirements of section 12863 regarding educational trip leaders;'

25 Amend the bill in section 1 in c. 433 in §5303 in subsection 2 by striking out all of
26 paragraph B (page 2, lines 32 to 34 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

27 'B. Provide programs for a 2-night, 3-day experience or day programs when overnight
28 programs are impractical due to health or cultural considerations;'

29 Amend the bill in section 1 in c. 433 in §5304 by striking out all of subsection 1 (page
30 3, lines 5 to 10 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

31 '1. Fund established. The Outdoor School for All Maine Students Fund, referred to
32 in this section as "the fund," is established within the University of Maine Cooperative
33 Extension Service. The University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service shall
34 administer grant funds and the program in accordance with subsection 2. The fund is
35 nonlapsing and may be invested in the same manner as permitted for the investment of
36 other state funds.'

37 Amend the bill in section 1 in c. 433 in §5304 by striking out all of subsection 2 (page
38 3, lines 11 to 14 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

39 '2. Use of fund. Beginning in school year 2023-2024, the University of Maine
40 Cooperative Extension Service shall determine the funding needed for the program. The
41 funding must be sufficient for students in all geographic regions of the State to participate
42 in the program for a 2-night, 3-day experience.'

1 Amend the bill in section 1 in c. 433 in §5304 by striking out all of the first indented
2 paragraph (page 3, lines 20 to 22 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

3 'The University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service may use funds for staff and
4 for administrative costs associated with administering the program and the fund and is not
5 required to undertake work or provide services for which it does not have sufficient
6 funding.'

7 Amend the bill in section 1 in c. 433 by striking out all of §5305 (page 3, lines 23 to
8 35 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

9 **§5305. Report; evaluation**

10 The University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service, in consultation with the
11 advisory committee under section 5306, shall develop an evaluation program and
12 longitudinal study on current and future demographics of students participating in the
13 program for the purpose of ensuring equitable access and to understand the effects of
14 outdoor education on emotional, educational and career trajectories of students who have
15 participated in the program. Beginning March 1, 2024 and annually thereafter, the
16 University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service shall submit a report evaluating the
17 program to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
18 education matters, inland fisheries and wildlife matters and agriculture, conservation and
19 forestry matters. The report must include an emphasis on information regarding the
20 accessibility of the program from a geographic, economic, ethnic and disability prospective
21 and the program's effect on state workforce goals.'

22 Amend the bill in section 1 in c. 433 by striking out all of §5306 (page 3, lines 36 to
23 42 and page 4, lines 1 to 3 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

24 **§5306. Advisory committee**

25 The University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service shall convene an advisory
26 committee for the purpose of advising and making recommendations to the program and
27 seeking new opportunities to ensure that the State is a nationwide leader in outdoor
28 education, including high school education career training programs. In inviting
29 participation in the advisory committee, the University of Maine Cooperative Extension
30 Service shall take into consideration geographic and demographic diversity in membership
31 and ensure that membership of the committee includes a youth advocate and
32 representatives of all applicable state agencies, the outdoor education program provider
33 community, the natural resources community and upper elementary and middle school
34 education.'

35 Amend the bill by striking out all of section 2 and inserting the following:

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

38 **UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE**

39 **Outdoor School for All Maine Students Fund N427**

40 Initiative: Provides ongoing funding for the University of Maine Cooperative Extension
41 Service's administration of the Outdoor School for All Maine Students program to provide
42 grants to overnight outdoor education program providers partnering with schools and
43 school administrative units for students to attend overnight outdoor education programs.

1	GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
2	All Other	\$6,200,000	\$6,200,000
3			
4	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$6,200,000</u>	<u>\$6,200,000</u>

5

6 Amend the bill by adding before the summary the following:

7 **'Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
8 takes effect when approved.'

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

11 **SUMMARY**

12 This amendment changes the definition of "outdoor education program provider" by
13 removing the requirement that the provider qualify as a tax-exempt organization under 26
14 United States Code, Section 501(c)(3).

15 The amendment clarifies that grants must be used for students enrolled in publicly
16 funded schools, which means public elementary schools, public charter schools and in all
17 private schools approved for tuition whose school enrollments include at least 60% publicly
18 funded students, as determined by the previous school year's October and April average
19 enrollment. The amendment also clarifies that a student receiving home-school instruction
20 is eligible to participate in the Outdoor School for All Maine Students Program.

21 The amendment clarifies that an outdoor education program provider is required to
22 provide programs for a 2-night, 3-day experience in addition to day programs as provided
23 in the bill.

24 The amendment changes the annual report deadline in the bill from December 1, 2023
25 to March 1, 2024.

26 The amendment provides that the Outdoor School for All Maine Students Fund is
27 established within the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service rather than
28 within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The amendment also
29 requires the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service, rather than the
30 Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, to convene the advisory committee.

31 The amendment adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause to the bill.

32 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

33 **(See attached)**