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JUDICIARY

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STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

132ND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 772, L.D. 1965, “Resolve, to Establish a Task Force to Create a Court Navigation Program Plan”

Amend the resolve by striking out all of sections 1 and 2 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. University of Maine System to convene task force. Resolved: That the University of Maine System shall convene a task force, referred to in this resolve as "the task force," to create a court navigation program plan. The membership of the task force must consist of at least one representative from each of the following:

1. The schools of social work of the University of Maine System;
2. The University of Maine School of Law;
3. Maine Pretrial Services, Inc.;
4. Pine Tree Legal Assistance;
5. Disability Rights Maine;
6. The National Alliance on Mental Illness Maine;
7. 211 Maine;
8. The Department of Health and Human Services; and
9. The judicial branch.

Sec. 2. Court navigation program plan. Resolved: That the task force shall examine court navigation programs nationwide, recommend a model for a court navigation program for use in the State and create a plan for implementing the program. At a minimum, the court navigation program model recommended by the task force must be designed to:

1. Provide guidance and information about court processes and procedures to persons involved with the court system;
2. Provide referrals to persons involved with the court system to community-based resources related to their behavioral health needs, such as mental health treatment and

1 substance use disorder treatment, and their economic and social service-related needs, such
2 as housing, employment, transportation and food, in order to address those needs; and

3 3. Be operated, in significant part, by social work students and law students who have
4 the opportunity to earn academic credit for their participation in the operation of the court
5 navigation program.

6 In pursuing its duties under this section, the task force shall consult with advocates for
7 persons who are unhoused, for survivors of domestic violence, for survivors of sexual
8 assault and for other identifiable populations who may particularly benefit from the
9 assistance of the court navigation program.'

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

12 SUMMARY

13 This amendment requires the task force convened by the University of Maine System
14 in the bill to allow more members, including at least one representative from the judicial
15 branch, and to consult with advocates for persons who are unhoused, for survivors of
16 domestic violence, for survivors of sexual assault and for other identifiable populations that
17 may particularly benefit from a court navigation program. It also requires that the task
18 force recommend a model court navigation program designed to be operated, in significant
19 part, by social work students and law students who have the opportunity to earn academic
20 credit for their participation in the court navigation program.

21 FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

22 (See attached)