

## OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

Date: May 12, 2021  
To: Joint Standing Committee on Health & Human Services  
From: Erin Dooling, Esq., Legislative Analyst

### **LD 1601 Resolve, To Establish an Advisory Panel To Study the Implications of Genome-editing Technology for the Citizens of the State**

**SUMMARY:** This resolve establishes the Advisory Panel To Study the Implications of Genome-editing Technology for the Citizens of the State to study the implications of genome-editing technology and the legislative, administrative or other steps that the State should take to capitalize on the potential and avoid the hazards of genome-editing technology. It is required to be staffed by Legislative staff. The panel is directed to submit its report, including suggested legislation, to the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature by December 31, 2022.

- Membership includes legislators from both parties, a bioethicist, a person under 30, a member who is of the Wabanaki people, a member who is a fiction author or poet, a person living with a single-gene disorder, and other members with various expertise. Includes an invitation to the Maine Judicial Branch and the Governor to participate.
- To accomplish duties the panel must solicit testimony, advice or participation of persons have background or expertise in ethics, clinic medicine, public health, bioscience research, environmental protection, forestry, agriculture or aquaculture, fishing, state economics, tourism, business or commerce, military or security affairs, University of Maine System or Maine Community College System, a person living with a single-gene disorder or that person's parent or guardian, hospital or hospice chaplaincy, history of race, ethnicity or eugenics.

### **SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS FROM TESTIMONY:**

- *Membership:* University of Maine requested the ability to serve on the panel

## **DRAFTING ISSUES / NOTES:**

- Does not comply with Joint Rule 353
- *Clarify membership*: Page 2, lines 4-5. Suggested language is “federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State.”

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUESTED BY COMMITTEE:**

- What have other states done?
  - Washington, [HB 2273](#) (pending): Proposes to create a study commission to review genome editing implications.
  - California, [SB 180](#) (enacted): Provides: “*Except as permitted by federal law, a person shall not sell a gene therapy kit in this state unless the seller includes a notice on the seller’s internet website in a conspicuous location that is displayed to the consumer prior to the point of sale, and on a label on the package containing the gene therapy kit, in plain view and readily legible, stating that the kit is not for self-administration.*”

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Not yet determined