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Date: (Filing No. H- )

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
126TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1208, L.D. 1685, Bill, “An Act To Ensure That All Maine Children Are Protected from Abuse and Neglect”

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

**'Resolve, To Strengthen the Protection of Children from Abuse and Neglect'**

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting 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,** it is imperative for the protection of children from abuse and neglect that the Department of Health and Human Services convene a working group to study the issue and make recommendations to strengthen the authority of the department and the Department of Education to respond to situations in which child abuse or neglect is alleged and to prevent further abuse of children; and

**Whereas,** the working group must begin its work before the 90-day period expires in order that the working group may complete its work and submit a report by November 5, 2014; and

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

**Sec. 1. Working group established. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human Services, referred to in this resolve as "the department," shall convene a working group, referred to in this resolve as "the working group," to review current laws and the scope of departmental authority with respect to the abuse and neglect of children, to identify gaps in the safety net to protect children from abuse and neglect and to make recommendations to strengthen the protection of children from abuse and neglect; and be it further

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**



1 in the safety net to protect children from abuse and neglect and to make recommendations  
2 to strengthen the protection of children from abuse and neglect. The amendment requires  
3 the department to submit a report on behalf of the working group to the Joint Standing  
4 Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on  
5 Health and Human Services by November 5, 2014.

6 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

7 **(See attached)**