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Date: (Filing No. H-)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
129TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 595, L.D. 821, Bill, “An Act To Set Case Load Standards for the Office of Child and Family Services”

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

'Resolve, To Review Case Loads for Child Welfare Caseworkers'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title 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, child welfare caseworkers need sufficient time to focus on each child welfare case to ensure timely and thorough investigations of abuse and neglect and to keep children safe; and

Whereas, the Department of Health and Human Services must begin a review of child welfare case loads immediately; 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. Department of Health and Human Services to review case load standards. Resolved: That the Department of Health and Human Services shall review case load standards for child welfare caseworkers and develop standard case load recommendations with input from child welfare caseworkers and the Public Consulting Group contracted by the department under contract number CBH-19-9000. The department shall submit an initial report with its findings and recommendations on staffing in the department's child welfare program in relation to the standard case load recommendations no later than October 1, 2019 and subsequent annual reports by January 31st of each year beginning in 2020 and ending in 2030 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters and the joint

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 legislative committee established to oversee program evaluation and government
2 accountability matters.

3 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this resolve
4 takes effect when approved.'

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

7 **SUMMARY**

8 This amendment replaces the bill. It requires the Department of Health and Human
9 Services to review case load standards for child welfare caseworkers and develop
10 standard case load recommendations with input from child welfare caseworkers and the
11 Public Consulting Group. The Public Consulting Group is currently contracted with the
12 department to evaluate the child welfare program. The department is required to submit a
13 report by October 1, 2019 with its findings and recommendations and then submit annual
14 reports on staffing in the child welfare program in relation to the standard case load
15 recommendations. The reports are submitted to the joint standing committee of the
16 Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters and the joint
17 legislative committee established to oversee program evaluation and government
18 accountability matters. The amendment adds an emergency preamble and an emergency
19 clause.

20 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

21 **(See attached)**