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Date: (Filing No. H-)

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 975, L.D. 1323, “An Act To Maximize Service to Students by Adopting Conditional Allowances for Participation by Families of School Board Members in School Activities”

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 3 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §1002, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1999, c. 128, §2, is further amended to read:

2. Employment by school administrative unit, school union, academy. A member of a school board or spouse of a member may not be an employee in a public school within the jurisdiction of the school board to which the member is elected or in a contract high school or academy located within a supervisory union in which the member is a representative on the union committee.

A. A school board may, but is not required to, permit the spouse of a member of the school board to serve as a stipend employee on a contractual basis when that action is in the best interest of students and a summation of potential conflicts of interest is documented and a priori mitigations are described in the signed contract. A school board may adopt a written policy on nepotism that includes hiring practices for school-sanctioned stipend positions, discourages favoritism and political patronage, considers the needs of the school system and provides that all qualified applicants have a fair and equal opportunity to be selected on merit, with priority consideration given to the best interest of students without restrictions based solely on family association.

This paragraph is repealed July 1, 2024.'

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 4 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §1002, sub-§2-B is enacted to read:

2-B. Permissive volunteer placement by school administrative unit, school union, academy. Notwithstanding subsection 2-A, a school board may, but is not required to, permit a school board member’s spouse to serve as a volunteer. A school board may adopt a written policy on nepotism to discourage favoritism and political patronage, consider the

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 needs of the school system and provide that all volunteers have a fair and equal opportunity
2 to be selected on merit, with priority consideration given to the best interest of students
3 without restrictions based solely on family association.

4 This subsection is repealed July 1, 2024.'

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

7 **SUMMARY**

8 This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, provides that a school
9 board may, but is not required to, permit a school board member’s spouse to serve as a
10 stipend employee and a volunteer. A school board may adopt a written policy on nepotism
11 that includes hiring practices for school-sanctioned stipend positions and to discourage
12 favoritism and political patronage, consider the needs of the school system and provide that
13 all qualified applicants or volunteers have a fair and equal opportunity to be selected on
14 merit, with priority consideration given to the best interest of students without restrictions
15 based solely on family association. The amendment includes a repeal date of July 1, 2024.