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Date: (Filing No. H-)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
130TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1358, L.D. 1825, “An Act To Establish Limits on the Number of Hours Worked by and Workloads of Child Protective Services Caseworkers in the Department of Health and Human Services”

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

'An Act To Establish Limits on the Number of Hours Worked by Child Protective Services Caseworkers in the Department of Health and Human Services'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4004, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Staffing. The department shall ensure that a caseworker does not exceed the work or driving hours established pursuant to this subsection.

A. The department may not require a caseworker to work more than:

- (1) Sixty hours over 7 consecutive days; or
- (2) Seventy hours over 8 consecutive days.

B. The department may require a caseworker to work for up to 14 hours at one time following 10 consecutive hours of not working, but the department may not require a caseworker to drive for more than 11 hours during that shift.

C. A caseworker's supervisor, in consultation with the commissioner or the commissioner's designee, may direct a caseworker to exceed the maximum hours established in paragraphs A and B in circumstances that could result in an immediate risk of abuse or neglect to a child as determined in department policy.'

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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SUMMARY

This amendment is the majority report of the committee and replaces the bill. The amendment removes the provisions of the bill that require a caseworker to maintain a driving log and that establish a maximum workload for caseworkers. It also removes the provision of the bill that requires reporting to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters and the child welfare services ombudsman when a caseworker exceeds the maximum workload. It also removes the provision that repeals Resolve 2019, chapter 34. The amendment retains the provision of the bill that establishes limits on work hours and driving hours. The amendment adds the ability for a caseworker's supervisor, in consultation with the Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee, to direct a caseworker to exceed the maximum number of work hours for an emergency situation determined in department policy.