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Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 881: Fees; Chemical Use in Children's Products, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2A requires legislative authorization before major substantive agency rules may be finally adopted by the agency; and

Whereas, the above-named major substantive rule has been submitted to the Legislature for review; and

Whereas, immediate enactment of this resolve is necessary to record the Legislature's position on final adoption of the rule; 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 Adoption. Resolved: That final adoption of Chapter 881: Fees; Chemical Use in Children's Products, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Department of Environmental Protection that has been submitted to the Legislature for review pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2A, is authorized until February 1, 2013; and be it further

Sec. 2 Review; authority for legislation. Resolved: That the Department of Environmental Protection shall examine the first 2 years of experience regarding fees assessed under the department's rule, Chapter 881: Fees; Chemical Use in Children's Products, as adopted pursuant to section 1. No later than February 1, 2013, the department shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over natural resources matters. The report must identify the reporting fees and alternatives assessment fees actually assessed by the department, the actual costs to the department and the related priority chemicals that were the basis for the fees. The report must also include a description of the process used by the department to contract with contractors to prepare independent reports, including, but not limited to, the use of a competitive bidding process. Following its review of the report, the committee may submit a bill to the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature regarding fees related to chemical use in children's products.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.