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Date: (Filing No. S-)

LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
125TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 444, L.D. 1437, Bill, “An Act To Implement Recommendations on Reinventing Government”

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

'Resolve, Directing the Maine Economic Growth Council To Develop the Maine Prosperity Action Plan of 2012'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting the following:

Preamble. Whereas, per capita income in the other New England states is 38% higher than per capita income in Maine; and

Whereas, numerous advisory groups have convened in recent years to assess Maine's policy environment, government systems and public sector costs, with the objective of creating a more prosperous Maine economy; and

Whereas, the reports that have emerged from these efforts have been widely praised and overlap substantially in their recommendations; and

Whereas, although these reports have informed ongoing work by legislative policy committees and have influenced legislation on certain issues, those reports have not been translated into a single, comprehensive, economically transformative and legislatively specific action plan; and

Whereas, the Maine Economic Growth Council is a 19-member panel of established and trusted Maine leaders, appointed jointly over time by the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and empowered by statute to set the long-term plan for the sustainable economic development of Maine; and

Whereas, the Maine Economic Growth Council appointees are established Maine leaders who have earned broad respect for their leadership, vision and commitment to Maine and have broad public credibility and a deep understanding of Maine's economic conditions, challenges and opportunities; now, therefore, be it

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 **Sec. 1. Development of Maine Prosperity Action Plan. Resolved:** That the
2 Maine Economic Growth Council, established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10,
3 section 929-A and referred to in this resolve as "the council," shall develop the Maine
4 Prosperity Action Plan, referred to in this resolve as "the plan," which must contain a
5 comprehensive and specific action plan for a sustainable state economy. In developing
6 the plan, the council shall undertake a thorough review of the proposals and
7 recommendations contained in recent reports assessing the State's policy environment,
8 government systems and public sector costs, with the objective of creating a more
9 prosperous Maine economy. Specifically, the council's review must include its own
10 annual report on economic indicators, "Measures of Growth in Focus," as well as:

11 1. "Charting Maine's Future: An Action Plan for Promoting Sustainable Prosperity
12 and Quality Places," prepared by the Brookings Institution in collaboration with
13 GrowSmart Maine and published in 2006;

14 2. "Time for Change," the final report of the Joint Select Committee on Future Maine
15 Prosperity, issued in 2008;

16 3. "Reinventing Maine Government," prepared by Envision Maine and published in
17 2010; and

18 4. "Making Maine Work: Critical Investments for the Maine Economy," the 3-part
19 series prepared by the Maine State Chamber of Commerce and the Maine Development
20 Foundation and published in 2010 to 2012.

21 After reviewing the recommendations and reports, the council shall identify those
22 proposals it determines offer the most potential for positively transforming economic
23 conditions in the State, extract from those proposals concrete proposals for legislative
24 action and translate them into proposed legislation; and be it further

25 **Sec. 2. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the council shall contract with the
26 Maine Development Foundation for primary staff support to carry out the purposes of this
27 resolve; and be it further

28 **Sec. 3. Outside funding. Resolved:** That the council shall seek outside funding
29 to fund the costs of developing the plan. The council may not accept contributions from
30 any party having a pecuniary or other vested interest in the outcome of the plan. To the
31 extent that outside contributions are inadequate to fully fund all costs of developing the
32 plan, the council is not required to develop the plan; and be it further

33 **Sec. 4. Report. Resolved:** That the council shall submit the plan, including any
34 necessary implementing legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature
35 having jurisdiction over labor, commerce, research and economic development matters no
36 later than December 5, 2012. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having
37 jurisdiction over labor, commerce, research and economic development matters is
38 authorized to report out a bill to implement the recommendations to the First Regular
39 Session of the 126th Legislature.'

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SUMMARY

This amendment strikes the bill, which was a concept draft, and replaces it with a resolve directing the Maine Economic Growth Council, if it receives sufficient outside funding, to develop a comprehensive and specific action plan for a sustainable state economy. Under this resolve, the council is directed to:

1. Undertake a thorough review of the proposals and recommendations contained in various reports issued within the past 6 years assessing the State's policy environment, government systems and public sector costs;

2. After reviewing the recommendations and reports, identify those proposals it determines offer the most potential for positively transforming economic conditions in the State and translate those proposals into proposed legislation; and

3. Submit the plan, together with proposed legislation necessary to implement the plan, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor, commerce, research and economic development matters no later than December 5, 2012. The committee is authorized to report out a bill related to these recommendations to the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)