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EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
126TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 717, L.D. 1019, Bill, “An Act To Protect the State's Property Rights in Maine State Museum Research”

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

'Sec. 1. 27 MRSA §86-B is enacted to read:

§86-B. Confidentiality of certain research and personal information

1. Draft research and materials. Museum draft research, publications and exhibit materials, including scientific, archaeological and historical findings, are confidential and not public records for the purposes of Title 1, chapter 13, subchapter 1 until complete and presented to the public. The Museum Director may authorize disclosure before publication or presentation to the public.

2. Personal history research and materials. Personal information contained in any record about the individual that is obtained by the Maine State Museum in the course of a historical research project is confidential and not a public record for the purposes of Title 1, chapter 13, subchapter 1 until:

A. The individual authorizes the release of the personal information as a public record; or

B. The death of the individual, except that the Museum Director may, at the request of the individual, designate in writing that personal information about the individual remain confidential for a specified period, not to exceed 25 years after the death of the individual, to protect the privacy of the individual or the privacy of the parent or child of the individual.

For the purposes of this section, "personal information" means any information about an individual's personal history, including, but not limited to, medical, psychiatric, employment, counseling and other information of a personal or private nature.'

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill. This amendment:

1. Provides that draft research, publications and exhibit materials of the Maine State Museum are confidential and not public records until publication or presentation to the public or the Museum Director authorizes earlier release; and
2. Provides that personal information obtained by the Maine State Museum in the course of a historical research project is confidential and not a public record until the individual authorizes its release or dies. It also provides that the Museum Director may, at the request of the individual, designate that the information remain confidential for up to 25 years after the death of the individual in order to protect the privacy of the individual or the privacy of the parent or child of the individual.