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Date: (Filing No. H-)

TAXATION

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
127TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 339, L.D. 500, Bill, “An Act To Support Municipal Volunteers”

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

'Resolve, To Create a Working Group To Develop Solutions To Meet the Needs for Municipal Volunteer Personnel'

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

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 Municipal Volunteer Working Group established in this resolve will make important recommendations regarding ways to recruit, train and retain essential volunteer firefighters and emergency medical services personnel; and

Whereas, the study must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that the study may be completed and a report produced in time for submission to the next legislative session; 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. Municipal Volunteer Working Group established. Resolved: That the Municipal Volunteer Working Group, referred to in this resolve as "the working group," is established; and be it further

Sec. 2. Working group membership. Resolved: That the working group consists of 9 members appointed as follows:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 1. Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate, one from
2 the party with the greatest number of members and one from the party with the 2nd
3 greatest number of members;

4 2. Three members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the
5 House, at least one of whom is from the party with the greatest number of members and
6 at least one of whom is from the party with the 2nd greatest number of members;

7 3. One representative from the Maine State Federation of Firefighters, appointed by
8 the President of the Senate;

9 4. One volunteer firefighter or emergency responder who may be active or nonactive,
10 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

11 5. One chief of a volunteer fire department, appointed by the President of the Senate;
12 and

13 6. One representative from the Maine Fire Chiefs' Association, appointed by the
14 Speaker of the House; and be it further

15 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is the Senate
16 chair and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the
17 working group; and be it further

18 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of working group. Resolved:** That all
19 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this
20 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative
21 Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members,
22 the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the working group. If 30 days or
23 more after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have
24 been made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant
25 authority for the working group to meet and conduct its business; and be it further

26 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the working group shall find solutions to the
27 recruitment, training and retention problems facing volunteer fire departments and
28 volunteer emergency medical services providers in Maine.

29 The working group shall solicit input from municipalities with volunteer fire
30 departments and volunteer emergency medical services, volunteer firefighters and
31 volunteer emergency medical services providers and members of the public. The
32 working group shall identify the reasons for recruitment, training and retention problems
33 and recommend solutions; and be it further

34 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Legislative Council shall provide
35 necessary staffing services to the working group; and be it further

36 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 2, 2015, the working
37 group shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including
38 suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public
39 Safety. The committee may submit legislation related to the report to the Second Regular
40 Session of the 127th Legislature.

