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Date: (Filing No. S-)

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
126TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 389, L.D. 1128, Bill, “An Act To Provide for Greater Public Input and Local Control in the Chartering of Public Schools”

Amend the bill in section 1 by striking out all of subsection 3-A and inserting the following:

3-A. Application to commission. The commission may not accept an application for a public charter school unless the following requirements are met by the organizers of the proposed public charter school. The organizers shall:

A. Hold one or more public hearings in the catchment area that would be affected by the operation of the public charter school and at each public hearing present the organizers' proposed plan for the public charter school to persons attending the public hearing;

B. Send an invitation to each public hearing held under paragraph A to the local school board members of each of the school administrative units located in the catchment area that would be affected by the operation of the public charter school;

C. Provide the persons who attend a public hearing with the best estimates possible related to the impact of the proposed plan on funding, student enrollment, courses and teachers in both the noncharter public schools and the proposed public charter school;

D. Announce to the persons who attend a public hearing that they have the right to provide the commission with their opinions and concerns about the proposed plan to operate a public charter school in the catchment area in which they reside;

E. Accept public comment from the persons who attend a public hearing regarding their opinions and concerns about the proposed plan to operate a public charter school in the catchment area in which they reside;

F. Invite written feedback from the local school boards located in the catchment area that would be affected by the operation of the public charter school, including the results of a nonbinding advisory vote held by a local school board to determine the position of the local school board members on the following question: "Do you favor

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1 the organizers' proposed plan to operate a public charter school in the region in which
2 you reside?"; and

3 G. Provide the commission with an objective summary of the public comments
4 presented at each public hearing, the discussions that occurred between the organizers
5 and the persons who attended the public hearings, the feedback from the local school
6 boards located in the catchment area that would be affected by the operation of the
7 public charter school and the result of the nonbinding advisory votes held in
8 accordance with paragraph F.'

9 Amend the bill by striking out all of section 2.

10 **SUMMARY**

11 This amendment, which is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on
12 Education and Cultural Affairs, amends the bill to provide that any person, group or
13 organization, prior to filing an application for a public charter school with the Maine
14 Charter School Commission, must hold at least one public hearing in the region that
15 would be affected by the operation of the public charter school. The amendment strikes
16 the provision in the bill that would have required organizers to hold a vote to determine if
17 the persons who attend a public hearing are in favor of the organizers' proposed plan to
18 operate a public charter school in the region. In addition to the remaining public hearing
19 requirements included in the bill that must be met by organizers before the commission
20 may accept the organizers' applications, the organizers must also meet the following
21 requirements:

22 1. Send an invitation to each public hearing held by the organizers to the school board
23 members of each of the school administrative units located in the catchment area that
24 would be affected by the operation of the public charter school;

25 2. Invite written feedback from the local school boards located in the catchment area
26 that would be affected by the operation of the public charter school, including the results
27 of a nonbinding advisory vote held by the local school board on the question of whether
28 the local school board members favor the organizers' proposed plan to operate a public
29 charter school in the region; and

30 3. Provide the commission with an objective summary of the public comments
31 presented at each public hearing, the discussions that occurred between the organizers
32 and the persons who attended the public hearings, the feedback from the local school
33 boards located in the catchment area that would be affected by the operation of the public
34 charter school and the result of the nonbinding advisory votes held by local school boards
35 located in the catchment area to determine if the local school board members are in favor
36 of the organizers' proposed plan to operate a public charter school in the region.

37 The amendment also strikes the provision in the bill that requires the Commissioner
38 of Education to review the current funding laws and rules for public charter schools and
39 to submit proposed legislation that provides options for funding public charter schools.