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Date: (Filing No. H-)

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1250, L.D. 1744, Bill, “An Act To Protect Maine Lakes”

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, Maine's lakes are a critical and essential component of Maine's natural environment, wildlife and human life; and

Whereas, Maine's lakes generate in excess of \$3,400,000,000 in revenue each year, provide employment for 52,000 people and underpin our increasingly important tourism economy; and

Whereas, water quality in Maine's lakes, considered to have some of the highest water quality in the nation, has declined by as much as 20% since 1995 due to the introduction of phosphorus and other pollutants carried by eroded soils and storm water runoff from camp roads, driveways and lawns and from failing septic systems; and

Whereas, in many communities waterfront properties generate 60% to 70% of the tax base and any decline in water quality will cause property values to drop by 15% to 20% and will shift the tax burden to nonwaterfront homeowners; and

Whereas, scientific studies demonstrate that programs such as the LakeSmart program, which is a voluntary education and reward program for lakefront property owners who maintain their property in ways that protect lake water quality and property values, that keep phosphorus and other pollutants out of lakes are among the most cost-effective ways to protect lakes; and

Whereas, scientific analysis of the data gathered through the efforts of volunteers throughout the State who participate in the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program is critical to the understanding of the current water quality of our lakes; and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1250, L.D. 1744

1 Program and \$10,000 to the Maine Joint Environmental Training Coordinating
2 Committee in its development and implementation of water pollution control, water
3 quality protection and other environmental training programs.

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FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

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(See attached)