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Date: (Filing No. S- )

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 505, L.D. 1411, “Resolve, To Require the Department of Health and Human Services To Request a Waiver To Prohibit the Use of Food Supplement Benefits for the Purchase of Taxable Food Items”

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

**'Resolve, To Reduce Hunger and Increase Access to Healthy Foods by Participants in the Food Supplement Program'**

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

**Preamble. Whereas,** 15% of Maine households, or approximately 200,000 Maine people, suffer from food insecurity and that number has increased in recent years; and

**Whereas,** Maine ranks 7th in the nation and first in New England for the percentage of population with very low food security; and

**Whereas,** Maine ranks first in New England for child food insecurity, with nearly one in every 4 children being food insecure; and

**Whereas,** the state-administered federal food supplement program referred to as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, is the first line of defense against hunger and under-nutrition, boosting food security and health benefits; and

**Whereas,** according to the United States Department of Agriculture, the American diet is far from optimal and access to fresh fruits and vegetables is particularly difficult for people with low income; and

**Whereas,** research shows that education and incentives that promote healthy eating address poor dietary habits and obesity, decrease hunger and improve health; and

**Whereas,** the United States Department of Agriculture now provides educational grant opportunities and other initiatives to facilitate the use of SNAP benefits at farmers' markets and community-supported agriculture projects, but Maine is not fully utilizing its share of these funds; and

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**



1 to consider strategies, educational opportunities and other initiatives to reduce food  
2 insecurity, promote healthy eating habits and improve access to fresh fruits and  
3 vegetables and local foods through farmers' markets and community-supported  
4 agriculture by recipients of benefits under the state-administered federal food supplement  
5 program known as SNAP. The commissioner is required to report the work group's  
6 findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human  
7 Services by January 15, 2014.