

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE - HUNDRETH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 766

S. P. 249

In Senate, January 25, 1961

Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

Presented by Senator Stilphen of Knox.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-ONE

**RESOLVE, Providing for Emergency Renovation of Existing Facilities at the
Maine State Prison.**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, the Maine State Prison is now operating and has been operating for the past 2 years under overcrowded conditions and projected estimates of prisoner population trends indicate that this condition will continue in the foreseeable future; and

Whereas, over a period of time friction necessarily generated among prisoners by overcrowding in a prison is regarded as one of the chief causes of major prison disturbances; and

Whereas, the ability of the prison authorities to maintain proper custody and control is diminished to the extent that overcrowding continues to exist without relief; and

Whereas, construction presently under consideration by the 100th Legislature which could materially relieve overcrowding, if approved, could not be completed and ready for occupancy much before the spring of 1962; and

Whereas, this situation can be temporarily relieved by the renovation of an existing facility which would house some 40 prisoners; and

Whereas, such renovations can be effected for \$14,500 by the Maine State Prison staff and prison labor; and the facility can be equipped for \$2,200; and supervised with adequate personnel for the remainder of the current fiscal period for \$2,300; 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 leg-

isolation as immediately necessary for the preservation of public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Department of Mental Health and Corrections; appropriation for. Resolved: That there is appropriated to the Department of Mental Health and Corrections from the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund the sum of \$19,000 for the purpose of providing a temporary housing facility for 40 prisoners at the Maine State Prison.

The appropriation provided by this resolve shall not lapse but shall remain a continuing carrying account until the purpose of this act has been accomplished.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this resolve shall take effect when approved.