

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 1415

H.P. 973

House of Representatives, April 11, 2017

**An Act To Provide Additional Deductions from a Sentence of
Imprisonment for Completion of Education, Mental Health
Treatment and Substance Abuse Treatment Programs**

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator ROSEN of Hancock and
Representatives: GATTINE of Westbrook, GROHMAN of Biddeford, LONGSTAFF of
Waterville, WARREN of Hallowell, Senator: CYRWAY of Kennebec.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §1253, sub-§15** is enacted to read:

3 15. A person who commits a crime on or after October 1, 2017 and is subsequently
4 sentenced to a term of imprisonment for that crime to a state correctional facility may
5 earn deductions from the sentence of imprisonment as provided in this subsection if the
6 person achieves the goals assigned in the person's transition plan for an educational,
7 vocational, career or technical training program or a mental health treatment or substance
8 abuse treatment program. Deductions earned by the person pursuant to this subsection
9 are earned upon achievement of the transition plan goal and may not be denied or
10 withdrawn based on consideration of disciplinary factors or daily attendance or a decision
11 of an employee of the Department of Corrections. A person may earn only one deduction
12 pursuant to this subsection per sentence of imprisonment.

13 The goals that may be assigned in the person's transition plan and the deductions that are
14 earned as a result of achievement of the goals are as follows:

15 A. For achievement of a general high school equivalency diploma, either through
16 completion of course work or a test authorized and approved by the Department of
17 Corrections, a deduction of 90 days from the sentence;

18 B. For achievement of an adult high school diploma, a deduction of 120 days from
19 the sentence;

20 C. For achievement of an associate degree from an accredited institution of higher
21 education, a deduction of 180 days from the sentence;

22 D. For achievement of a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher
23 education, a deduction of 365 days from the sentence;

24 E. For achievement of completion of a vocational, career or technical training
25 program authorized and approved by the Department of Corrections, a deduction of
26 60 days from the sentence;

27 F. For achievement of completion of a mental health program and treatment course
28 that is recommended or approved by the Department of Corrections and
29 recommended by clinical treatment staff of the department for the person, a deduction
30 of 60 days from the sentence; and

31 G. For achievement of completion of a substance abuse program and treatment
32 course that is recommended or approved by the Department of Corrections and
33 recommended by clinical treatment staff of the department for the person, a deduction
34 of 60 days from the sentence.

35 **SUMMARY**

36 This bill provides for deductions from a prison sentence based on achievement of
37 goals in a person's transition plan for educational, vocational, career or technical training
38 programs or mental health treatment or substance abuse treatment programs for a person
39 who commits a crime on or after October 1, 2017. The deductions are earned upon

1 achievement of a transition plan goal and may not be denied or withdrawn based on
2 consideration of disciplinary factors or daily attendance or a decision of an employee of
3 the Department of Corrections. A person may earn only one deduction per sentence of
4 imprisonment. The goals and the deductions are: for achievement of a high school
5 equivalency diploma, a deduction of 90 days from the sentence; for achievement of an
6 adult high school diploma, a deduction of 120 days; for achievement of an associate
7 degree from an accredited institution of higher education, a deduction of 180 days; for
8 achievement of a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education, a
9 deduction of 365 days; for achievement of completion of a vocational, career or technical
10 training program authorized and approved by the department, a deduction of 60 days; for
11 achievement of completion of a mental health program and treatment course, a deduction
12 of 60 days; and for achievement of completion of a substance abuse program and
13 treatment course, a deduction of 60 days.