

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 719

H.P. 458

House of Representatives, February 25, 2025

An Act to Amend the Share of State Funding for the County Jail Operations Fund

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 20, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook.
Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and
Representatives: DUCHARME of Madison, HASENFUS of Readfield, LAJOIE of Lewiston,
LOOKNER of Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 34-A MRSA §1210-E, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 732, Pt. A, §3
3 and affected by §5, is amended to read:

4 **2. County Jail Operations Fund.** The County Jail Operations Fund is established to
5 provide funding for county jails and the regional jail. State funding must be appropriated
6 annually for the fund in ~~the~~ an amount of ~~\$20,342,104~~ equal to 35% of the total cost of
7 operating the county jails and the regional jail as needed to meet the standards established
8 by the commissioner for county jails pursuant to sections 1208 and 1208-A, or otherwise
9 required by law, plus any additional amount the Legislature may appropriate. For purposes
10 of this section, the total cost of operating the county jails and the regional jail must reflect
11 the total cost of operating the county jails and the regional jail for the most recently
12 concluded fiscal year. The department shall administer the fund and shall distribute funds
13 to the jails in accordance with this section for the purposes set forth in subsections 3 and 4
14 and in accordance with the distribution formula set forth in subsection 9. County jails and
15 the regional jail may provide services that exceed the standards established pursuant to
16 sections 1208 and 1208-A or otherwise required by law, but the cost of providing such
17 services must be funded by the counties or from other sources outside of the fund.

18 **SUMMARY**

19 This bill provides that state funding for the County Jail Operations Fund must be
20 appropriated annually in an amount equal to 35% of the total cost of operations for county
21 jails and the regional jail as necessary to meet the standards for county jails as established
22 by the Commissioner of Corrections or otherwise required by law. The bill further provides
23 that county jails and the regional jail may provide services that exceed the standards
24 established by the commissioner or otherwise required by law, but the cost of providing
25 such services must be funded by the counties or from other sources outside of the County
26 Jail Operations Fund.