

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1923

H.P. 1284

House of Representatives, May 6, 2025

An Act to Repurpose Long Creek Youth Development Center and Build a Community System of Support

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York and
Representatives: GATTINE of Westbrook, MURPHY of Scarborough, Senator: PIERCE of
Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §1610-R** is enacted to read:

3 **§1610-R. Additional securities for capital construction, repairs and improvements;**
4 **community-based residential programs**

5 Notwithstanding any limitation on the amount of securities that may be issued pursuant
6 to section 1606, subsection 2, as limited by section 1610-A, the authority may issue
7 additional securities in an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 outstanding at any one time
8 to pay for capital construction, repairs and improvements to the Long Creek Youth
9 Development Center in South Portland to repurpose it into a secure residential treatment
10 facility to provide services for juveniles and to pay for the establishment of 2 community-
11 based residential programs, one that supports youth leaving Long Creek Youth
12 Development Center and one that provides an alternative to commitment at Long Creek
13 Youth Development Center.

14 **Sec. 2. 34-A MRSA §7009, first ¶**, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 425, §4, is amended
15 to read:

16 By ~~February~~ October 15, 2024 2025, each month the department shall develop and
17 publish on its publicly accessible website data regarding the number of juveniles involved
18 in the juvenile justice system. The data must be updated monthly and include information
19 regarding the numbers of juveniles referred, diverted, detained, placed on probation,
20 ordered to serve a period of confinement and committed to the department. The department
21 shall deidentify the data and remove any potential personal identifying information of the
22 juveniles. The data must be organized by region of the State and broken down by age,
23 gender and race.

24 **Sec. 3. Long Creek Youth Development Center repurposed.** No later than
25 January 1, 2027, the Long Creek Youth Development Center physical plant must be
26 repurposed into a secure residential treatment facility to provide services for juveniles
27 involved in the juvenile justice system and at-risk youth, including but not limited to
28 services for housing, behavioral health, education, substance use disorder prevention and
29 treatment, wraparound case management and diversion and other services. The State shall
30 contract with community-based organizations to provide these services in conjunction with
31 staff of the Department of Corrections.

32 **Sec. 4. Investments in community-based services for youth.** No later than
33 January 1, 2027, the State shall direct funds from the Department of Corrections' juvenile
34 corrections and juvenile services budgets to fund community-based services for youth.
35 Services may include, but are not limited to:

- 36 1. Mobile crisis services;
- 37 2. Multisystemic therapy and functional family therapy;
- 38 3. Youth shelter and transitional housing;
- 39 4. Substance use disorder interventions;
- 40 5. Wraparound case management and navigation;
- 41 6. Peer support and mentoring; and

1 7. Regional care teams.

2 **Sec. 5. Long Creek Youth Development Center working group.** A working
3 group is established to plan and execute the repurposing of land and facilities at Long Creek
4 Youth Development Center, referred to in this section as "the center."

5 1. The Department of Corrections and the Department of Health and Human Services
6 shall convene a working group, referred to in this section as "the working group," to study
7 options and best practices for repurposing the land and facilities at the center and to study
8 reinvesting corrections funds currently designated for youth incarceration into a continuum
9 of community-based services. The members of the working group are as follows:

- 10 A. The Commissioner of Corrections or the commissioner's designee;
11 B. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee;
12 C. The superintendent of the center or the superintendent's designee;
13 D. At least 2 members who are community-based youth service providers;
14 E. A representative from a community-based organization offering youth shelter and
15 housing resources;
16 F. An expert in juvenile justice matters in this State;
17 G. An expert in children's behavioral health matters in this State; and
18 H. A parent or youth with experience with the juvenile justice system in this State.

19 2. The working group shall determine a plan for repurposing the center and reinvesting
20 the center's funds. The goal of repurposing and reinvesting is to reduce the confinement of
21 youth within the center and increase access to behavioral health and other support services
22 provided by community-based organizations. The working group shall:

- 23 A. Study repurposing efforts pursued by other states and municipalities to determine
24 best practices and consider what would work best in this State;
25 B. Examine the current status of land and facilities at the center to determine
26 opportunities for repurposing the land and facilities, including renovating existing
27 buildings or constructing additional facilities;
28 C. Consider alternate uses for land and facilities at the center, including but not limited
29 to a crisis receiving center, assessment of youth in crisis, a youth emergency shelter,
30 youth transitional housing and a community resource center;
31 D. Examine the current use of the center's budget and staffing and explore
32 opportunities for alternative uses of financial and human resources, including but not
33 limited to uses in support of the uses in paragraph C;
34 E. Explore existing community-based services provided to youth and work with
35 community-based organizations to determine potential programming that could take
36 place on the center's campus;
37 F. Explore opportunities for contracting with community-based organizations to
38 deliver services to youth;

1 G. Determine an appropriate oversight model for contracting with community-based
2 organizations, including whether contracting should take place within the Department
3 of Corrections or the Department of Health and Human Services; and

4 H. Develop recommendations for repurposing the land and facilities at the center and
5 a reinvestment plan for the funds currently allocated for the center, including a timeline
6 and key short-term, intermediate and long-term goals.

7 3. The working group shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on
8 Criminal Justice and Public Safety and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and
9 Human Services by January 15, 2026. The joint standing committees each may report
10 out legislation based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd
11 Legislature.

12 SUMMARY

13 This bill requires that, no later than January 1, 2027, the Long Creek Youth
14 Development Center physical plant be repurposed into a secure residential treatment
15 facility to provide services for juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system and at-risk
16 youth, including, but not limited to, services for housing, behavioral health, education,
17 substance use disorder prevention and treatment, wraparound case management and
18 diversion and other services. The State must contract with community-based organizations
19 to provide these services in conjunction with staff of the Department of Corrections. The
20 bill also requires that, no later than January 1, 2027, the State must direct funds from the
21 Department of Corrections' juvenile corrections and juvenile services budgets to fund
22 community-based services for youth. The bill requires the Department of Corrections and
23 the Department of Health and Human Services to convene a working group to study options
24 and best practices for repurposing Long Creek Youth Development Center and reinvesting
25 corrections funds currently designated for youth incarceration into community-based
26 services. The working group must submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on
27 Criminal Justice and Public Safety and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human
28 Services by January 15, 2026. The joint standing committees each may report out
29 legislation based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

30 The bill authorizes the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority to issue securities in
31 an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 outstanding at any one time to pay for capital
32 construction, repairs and improvements to the Long Creek Youth Development Center to
33 repurpose it into a secure residential treatment facility to provide services for juveniles and
34 to be used to establish 2 community-based residential programs, one that supports youth
35 leaving Long Creek Youth Development Center and one that provides an alternative to
36 commitment at Long Creek Youth Development Center.

37 The bill requires the Department of Corrections to develop and publish each month on
38 its publicly accessible website data regarding the number of juveniles involved in the
39 juvenile justice system.