

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1941

Date: 4/6/26

REPORT 'C'

(Filing No. H-978)

**JUDICIARY**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
132ND LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to H.P. 1300, L.D. 1941, "An Act to Implement Recommendations of the Commission to Examine Reestablishing Parole"

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

**'Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Examine the Intersection of Parole and Current Sentencing Practices'**

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

**'Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission to Examine the Intersection of Parole and Current Sentencing Practices, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established.

**Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the commission consists of 13 members as follows:

1. Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including one member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;
2. Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, including at least one member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;
3. The Commissioner of Corrections or the commissioner's designee;
4. The Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee;
5. A district attorney, designated by an association representing prosecutors in the State;
6. A representative of an organization advocating for the interests of persons who are incarcerated, appointed by the President of the Senate;
7. A member who is an expert in criminal procedure, appointed by the President of the Senate;

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

- 1           8. A member with experience in the fields of criminal sentencing or criminology or  
2 with experience in administering parole, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- 3           9. A representative of an organization advocating for the interests of racial minorities,  
4 appointed by the Speaker of the House; and
- 5           10. An active or retired judge or justice, designated by the Chief Justice of the Supreme  
6 Judicial Court.
- 7           **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is the Senate chair  
8 and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the  
9 commission.
- 10          **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved:** That all  
11 appointments must be made no later than 120 days following the adjournment of the Second  
12 Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature. The appointing authorities shall notify the  
13 Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been completed.  
14 After appointment of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the  
15 commission. If 120 days or more after the adjournment of the Second Regular Session of  
16 the 132nd Legislature a majority of but not all appointments have been made, the chairs  
17 may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for the commission  
18 to meet and conduct its business.
- 19          **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall examine parole as it currently  
20 operates in this State and in other states and shall consider:
- 21           1. How parole fits in with the overall sentencing framework of the Maine Revised  
22 Statutes, including the intersection of parole with probation and the supervised community  
23 confinement program operated by the Department of Corrections pursuant to Title 34-A,  
24 section 3036-A;
- 25           2. The consequences of reestablishing retrospective or prospective parole, including  
26 an exploration of the laws and experience of any other states that have recently established  
27 or reestablished parole; and
- 28           3. The decision-making process that should be employed by the State Parole Board,  
29 including any training required to ensure parity between sentencing decisions made by the  
30 courts and parole decisions made by the board.
- 31          **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Legislative Council shall provide  
32 necessary staffing services to the commission, except that the Legislative Council staff  
33 support is not authorized when the Legislature is in regular or special session.
- 34          **Sec. 7. Consultants. Resolved:** That the commission may request that individuals  
35 with specific expertise in parole and the logistics of parole systems, including but not  
36 limited to current employees of the Department of Corrections and members of the State  
37 Parole Board, serve as consultants to the commission.
- 38          **Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than November 4, 2026, the commission  
39 shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested  
40 legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over  
41 judiciary matters. The joint standing committee may report out legislation based on the  
42 recommendations of the commission to 133rd Legislature in 2027.'

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to H.P. 1300, L.D. 1941

1 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section  
2 number to read consecutively.

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve establishing the Commission to  
5 Examine the Intersection of Parole and Current Sentencing Practices. The amendment  
6 requires the commission to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the joint  
7 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters by  
8 November 4, 2026 and authorizes the joint standing committee to submit legislation based  
9 on the findings and recommendations in the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

10 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

11 **(See attached)**



# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1941

LR 1826(04)

An Act to Implement Recommendations of the Commission to Examine Reestablishing Parole

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment 'B' (H-978)

Committee: Judiciary

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

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## Fiscal Note

### Legislative Cost/Study

#### Legislative Cost/Study

The general operating expenses of this study are projected to be \$3,750 in fiscal year 2026-27. The Legislature's budget for the 2026-2027 biennium includes \$7,253 in fiscal year 2025-26 and \$17,696 in fiscal year 2026-27 for costs of legislative studies, as well as \$41,338 of balances carried over from prior fiscal years for this purpose. Whether these amounts are sufficient to fund all studies will depend on the number of studies authorized by the Legislative Council and the Legislature. The additional costs of providing staffing assistance to the study during the interim can be absorbed utilizing existing budgeted staff resources.

#### Fiscal Detail and Notes

Any additional costs to the Departments of Corrections and the Attorney General from the provisions of this bill are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources. If the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous, and Tribal Populations (PCSRITP) is selected to serve on the Commission created by this bill, then the costs to PCSRITP from the provisions of this bill are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.