

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1979

H.P. 1322

House of Representatives, May 13, 2025

**Resolve, Directing the Department of Corrections to Convene a
Working Group to Examine the Establishment of a Program to
Award Earned Time Credit for Educational Achievement to Persons
Who Are Incarcerated**

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

Robert B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative SARGENT of York.
Cosponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York and
Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, HASENFUS of
Readfield, MURPHY of Scarborough.

Sec. 1. Department of Corrections to convene working group. Resolved: That the Department of Corrections, referred to in this resolve as "the department," shall convene a working group, referred to in this resolve as "the working group," to examine the establishment of a program to award earned time credit for educational achievement to persons who are incarcerated. The working group must include relevant stakeholders and interested parties.

Sec. 2. Duties. Resolved: That the working group shall:

1. Analyze programs to award earned time credit for educational achievement to persons who are incarcerated implemented in states the department identifies as having correctional systems and programming opportunities similar to this State;
2. Examine data on the amount of time typically deducted from the sentence of a person who is incarcerated under the programs analyzed under subsection 1;
3. Collect any available data on rates of return to custody, recidivism or program impact or successes in other states;
4. Gather information comparing types of sentence deductions other than the award of earned time credit made available in the states analyzed under subsection 1;
5. Perform any other relevant analysis or collect any other relevant data; and
6. Recommend steps for the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety to advance the development of a program to award earned time credits for educational achievement to persons who are incarcerated in this State.

Sec. 3. Report. Resolved: That, no later than December 3, 2025, the department shall submit a report that includes the findings and recommendations of the working group, including suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The joint standing committee may report out legislation based on the subject matter of the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Department of Corrections to convene a working group to examine the establishment of a program to award earned time credit for educational achievement to persons who are incarcerated and report the working group's findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety no later than December 3, 2025. The joint standing committee is authorized to report out legislation based on the subject matter of the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.