

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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February 20, 1962

Miss Ward E. Murphy, Superintendent

Reformatory for Women

Courtland B. Perry, Ass't. Attorney General

Mental Health and Corrections

**Escape from Reformatory for Women - Sentences**

**QUESTION PRESENTED:** If, after an escape from the Reformatory for Women and upon conviction therefor, the sentencing judge should impose sentence providing for a definite term of commitment under the laws relative to the Reformatory for Women, what should be the proper disposition of such sentence?

Section 54 of Chapter 27 of the Revised Statutes of Maine of 1954, as amended by Chapter 367, Section 5, P. L. of 1957 and Chapter 344, Section 4, P. L. of 1958 provides that no sentence to the Reformatory shall be for a definite term and that a term of commitment including parole time shall not exceed three years. Section 55 of Chapter 27 provides that if a sentence for a definite term should be imposed, it shall not for that reason be void and the person so sentenced shall be entitled to all the benefits and subject to all the liabilities of Sections 52 through 65 inclusive, as if the sentence had been in the terms required by Section 54.

Applying these sections to the offense of escape from the Reformatory for Women, when the court imposes a sentence for a definite term, the Department shall hold the escapee for an additional period of imprisonment to commence upon termination of the original term of commitment as if the sentence for the offense of escape had been in the terms required by Section 54 subject, however, to the restrictions imposed by Section 61, Chapter 27 of the Revised Statutes of Maine of 1954, as amended by Chapter 367, Section 8, P. L. of 1957, that the additional term of imprisonment in the Reformatory for Women for the offense of escape shall not be for more than eleven months.

Thus, as to the offense of escape, Section 54 shall apply except that the upper limit of the term of commitment for such offense shall be eleven months.

Attorney General's Department

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