

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF  
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 8  
DATE April 24, 1972

PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION IN THE HIRING AND  
EMPLOYMENT OF EX-OFFENDERS AND EX-PATIENTS OF THE  
STATE CORRECTION AND MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTIONS

WHEREAS, it is the desire and duty of this office and every department of State government to always enhance, promote, and insure the well-being of our citizens,

AND WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we take exemplary action to indicate by our actions, as well as our words, our commitment to the promotion of a successful transition and return to normalcy in society of ex-offenders and ex-patients of State institutions,

AND WHEREAS, it is essential in the attainment of that objective to reduce or eliminate the traditional stigma and discrimination attached to State incarceration and hospitalization,

AND WHEREAS, gainful employment has been proven to be a most important condition of successful transition into the community and society,

AND THEREFORE, it is declared to be the policy of the State of Maine in all the various departments and agencies to provide equal employment opportunities to former inmates and patients.

Only by support of this policy in spirit, as well as letter, can we expect to achieve the much needed end; equal employment opportunity for all and a speedy return to normalcy for ex-offenders and ex-patients.


In the implementation of this policy, no department nor other agency shall discriminate in its hiring practices against an applicant who has been a former hospital patient or inmate, either in Maine systems or elsewhere;

Such applicant for employment shall be regarded the same as any other candidate with respect to suitability for employment;

They shall have the same opportunity to compete for positions within State agencies as any other citizen qualified for said positions;

In no case shall any unit of any department deny employment to an applicant simply because he or she has been a former patient or inmate.

Each department is hereby directed to advise all hiring authorities of this policy, which becomes effective immediately, and to adopt whatever internal procedures are necessary to implement said policy.

  
KENNETH M. CURTIS  
Governor of Maine