

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
(EMERGENCY)

ONE-HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1677

S. P. 606

In Senate, November 27, 1961

The Committee on Health and Institutional Services suggested.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

Presented by Senator Stilphen of Knox.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-ONE

**RESOLVE, Providing for Emergency Renovation of Existing Facilities at the
Maine State Prison.**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, the Maine State Prison is now operating and has been operating for the past 2 years under overcrowded conditions and projected estimates of prisoner population trends indicate that this condition will continue in the foreseeable future; and

Whereas, over a period of time friction necessarily generated among prisoners by overcrowding in a prison is regarded as one of the chief causes of major prison disturbances; and

Whereas, the ability of the prison authorities to maintain proper custody and control is diminished in proportion to the length of time that overcrowding continues to exist without relief; and

Whereas, construction authorized by the 100th Legislature, which will materially relieve overcrowding, will not be completed and ready for occupancy much before the spring of 1963; and

Whereas, this situation can be temporarily relieved by the renovation of an existing facility which would house some 40 prisoners; and

Whereas, such renovations can be effected for \$14,500 by the Maine State Prison staff and prison labor; and the facility can be equipped for \$2,200; and the staffing and operation of such unit can be accomplished for \$4,600 during the last 6 months of the current fiscal period, and \$9,500 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1963; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Department of Mental Health and Corrections; appropriation for. Resolved: That there is appropriated to the Department of Mental Health and Corrections from the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund the sum of \$30,800 for the purpose of providing a temporary housing facility for 40 prisoners at the Maine State Prison, said appropriation to be allocated as follows:

	1961-62	1962-63
Personal Services	(2) \$ 3,848	\$8,060
All Other	752	1,440
Capital	16,700	—
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Total	\$21,300	\$9,500

The appropriation provided by this resolve shall not lapse but shall remain a continuing carrying account until the purposes of this resolve have been accomplished.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this resolve shall take effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The Maine State Prison is operating and has been operating for the past 2 years under overcrowded conditions. Ability for the prison authorities to maintain proper custody and control is diminished in proportion to the length of time that overcrowding continues. The overcrowded conditions could be relieved by the renovation of an existing facility which would house about 40 prisoners. Much of the labor could be done by the prisoners. The cost of such emergency renovation would be \$30,800 for the years 1961-1963.