

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1474

H. P. 1085

House of Representatives, March 12, 1971

Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Wheeler of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

**AN ACT Appropriating Funds for Planning a State-wide Integrated
Corrections System.**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, current trends and practices in juvenile and adult corrections require both a complete analysis of existing correctional facilities and programs in Maine, and a long-range planning in order that Maine may develop an integrated correctional program, meeting the needs of its citizens; and

Whereas, in the interest of economy and in order to assure the optimum use of the correctional tax dollar in Maine, and in order to assure the provision of adequate rehabilitative and other services through correctional programming, and in order to avoid any unnecessary expenditure of State funds on individual facilities and programs, without consideration of overall state-wide correctional needs, it is vitally necessary that planning a state-wide integrated correctional system be undertaken at the earliest possible time; 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 the public peace, health and safety; now therefore,

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Appropriation. There is appropriated from the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Mental Health and Corrections for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1971 and to be carried and available for the purpose of this Act until June 30, 1972, the sum of \$150,000 to be allocated

to the Bureau of Corrections of the Department of Mental Health and Corrections for the purpose of planning and developing a state-wide integrated corrections system for adult and juvenile offenders. Whatever portion of this appropriation is considered necessary for the purpose in connection with such planning may be expended for architectural fees for preliminary plans and designs for correctional facilities and other purposes connected with planning a state-wide integrated corrections system. The Bureau of Corrections of the Department of Mental Health and Corrections is directed to present a plan for a state-wide integrated corrections system to the 105th Legislature not later than January 1, 1972. The breakdown of expenditures shall be as follows:

1970-71

MENTAL HEALTH AND CORRECTIONS,
DEPARTMENT OF

Bureau of Corrections
All Other

\$150,000

Funds appropriated by this Act may be utilized by the Department of Mental Health and Corrections as matching funds for the purposes of this Act and any funds available from the Federal Government for such purposes may be applied for, accepted and utilized by the Department of Mental Health and Corrections for the purpose of this Act.

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

STATEMENT OF FACT

The need for a different type of service for the diagnosis and treatment of the offender in the State of Maine has been identified through many formal and informal study groups, private organizations and professional reports, as well as from those dealing directly with the offender on both the community and institutional level. As this is a very broad concept, it would require a complete analysis of existing facilities and programs which could expand into a current plan for services, feasibility of a Regional Correctional Center concept (possibly incorporating some of the present County Jails), and the re-vamping of program and capital improvement goals within existing facilities for more effective treatment at the least possible cost.

This appropriation will assist the Bureau of Corrections in contracting for services to accomplish such an analysis and long-range planning. It could include architectural design, recommendations for location of facilities, identify necessary Statutory changes, and develop anticipated operating budgets to be considered by the Legislature. Such an evaluation, analysis, and plan is vital to a progressive concept of treatment of the offender.