

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 819

H. P. 712

House of Representatives, March 4, 1975

Reported by Mr. Goodwin from Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Printed under Joint Rules No. 18.

EDWIN H. PIRT, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Create the Maine Correctional Advisory Commission.

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

34 MRSA § 525-A is enacted to read

§ 525-A. Maine Correctional Advisory Commission

There is established the Maine Correctional Advisory Commission, composed of 12 members, consisting of one Member from the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House and one Member from the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, and 10 representative citizens, appointed by the Governor, including at least one full-time nonadministrative employee from the correctional system and at least one former inmate of the correctional system. The Governor shall designate the chairman. Of the first gubernatorial appointments, 4 shall be for a term of 3 years, 3 shall be for a term of 2 years and 3 shall be for a term of one year. Thereafter, appointments shall be made for a term of 3 years. Each member of the commission may receive his actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of duties pertaining to his office. In addition, the commission shall be authorized to receive public and private grants to aid in defraying the costs of its operation.

The duties of the Maine Correctional Advisory Commission shall be to act in an advisory capacity to the commissioner and to the Director of the Bureau of Corrections in assessing present programs, planning future programs and in developing on-going policies to meet the correctional needs of the State of Maine. To this end, the commission shall regularly advise the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government concerning correctional policy and shall issue a report containing the results of its studies to

the Legislature, the Governor and the commissioner on December 31st of each year. The commission shall meet as often as necessary, at the discretion of its chairman, and shall adopt its own rules of procedure necessary to carry out its duties.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Worthwhile and continuing input from the Legislature and from academic, professional, ex-offender and community representatives is needed by the Bureau of Corrections. This bill would establish a consolidated and effective citizen advisory group for the Bureau of Corrections, which could also assume the former responsibilities of the historically ineffective Boards of Visitors.

Since reimbursement to the commission for expenses incurred while performing duties of the office is not mandated by this Act, the appropriation of the original Act has been deleted.

This legislation effects recommendation No. 56 of the report of the Governor's Task Force on Corrections.