

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1097

S. P. 320

In Senate, March 19, 1975

On Motion of Senator Katz of Kennebec referred to the Committee on Judiciary. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Clifford of Androscoggin.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT Establishing an Annual Sentencing Institute for the Maine
Criminal Courts.

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

Sec. 1. 4 MRSA § 454 is enacted to read:

§ 454. Maine Criminal Justice Sentencing Institute

There is established a Maine Criminal Justice Sentencing Institute under the administrative supervision of the Judicial Council to provide a continuing forum for the regular discussion by criminal judges, prosecutors, law enforcement and correctional personnel of the most appropriate methods of sentencing convicted offenders. All Superior Court and District Court Judges, all District Attorneys and attorneys within the Criminal Division of the Office of the Attorney General, and such other criminal justice personnel as the Judicial Council may authorize shall be members of the institute.

The institute shall meet annually, at the call of the Judicial Council, for a 2-day period within an existing state correctional facility to discuss recommendations for changes in the sentencing authority and policies of the state's criminal courts, in response to current law enforcement problems and the available alternatives for criminal rehabilitation within the state's correctional system. Inasmuch as possible the deliberations of the institute shall be open to the general public, and all Superior Court and District Court Judges appointed since the last convening of the institute shall be required to attend.

Members of the institute shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be allowed, out of any appropriation or other fund made available for the purpose, such expenses for clerical and other services, travel and incidentals as the Judicial Council may authorize.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Maine Criminal Justice Sentencing Institute the sum of \$4,000 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1975-76	1976-77
MAINE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SENTENCING INSTITUTE		
All Other	\$2,000	\$2,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

Maine judges, prosecutors and criminal justice personnel are increasingly being called upon to deal with more frustrating and complex problems of both rural and urban crime. In order to deal adequately with the changing characteristics of that part of the population which commits criminal acts, it is necessary for the courts, prosecutors, and criminal justice personnel to become acquainted at first hand with the total range of methods available and required for dealing effectively with convicted persons in the State of Maine.

Periodic "sentencing institutes" have proved very successful in other states and have been a fixture within the federal criminal court system since 1958.

This legislation effects recommendation #22 of the report of the Governor's Task Force on Corrections.