

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1295

H. P. 1073

House of Representatives, March 28, 1977

Referred to the Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Tarbell of Bangor.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

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AN ACT Pertaining to Regional Correctional Facilities.

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

34 MRSA § 532 is enacted to read:

§ 532. Area Residential Centers

1. Established. The Commissioner of Mental Health and Corrections is authorized to establish not more than 3 correctional facilities to serve as area residential centers, as follows:

- A. Each to have a capacity of not to exceed 100 persons;
- B. Each to be principally of minimum security; and
- C. Each to be located in or near an urban area of the State, one each in the northern, central and southern areas of the State.

2. Purposes. Among the purposes of these centers shall be:

- A. To serve as a place of confinement upon direct sentencing for offenders whose sentences do not exceed 18 months;
- B. To ensure, through proximity to labor markets, productive employment of inmates desiring to work;
- C. To provide, through such employment, a reduction in the public assistance burden otherwise incurred by the State through the incarceration of offenders, and to provide restitution to the victims of crime in appropriate instances;

D. To serve as prerelease and work and education release centers for inmates transferred thereto from other correctional facilities; and

E. To serve such other purposes as may be established by the Commissioner of Mental Health and Corrections, with the approval of the Governor.

3. Report. The Commissioner of Mental Health and Corrections shall report to the Committee on Health and Institutional Services regarding implementation and plans for the implementation of the area residential center concept not later than December 31, 1977. This report shall include projected locations, populations, acquisition and renovation or capital construction and operating costs, staffing levels, planned administrative organization and additional purposes or functions to be served by area residential centers.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

Current correctional facilities in Maine are remote from large urban areas and over-restrain a substantial under of the total inmate population. Area residential centers were recommended to the State by consultants in 1972, seconded by the Task Force on Corrections of former Governor Curtis, and have more recently been endorsed by the Governor's Task Force on Corrections and by the State Advisory Commission on Corrections, and have been accepted in principle by the Department of Mental Health and Corrections.