

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1545

S. P. 494

In Senate, April 5, 1979

Reported by Senator Perkins of Hancock from Joint Select Committee on Correctional Institutions, pursuant to Joint Order S. P. 491 and Printed Under Joint Rules No. 2.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

**AN ACT to Appropriate Funds to the Department of Mental Health and
Corrections.**

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

Whereas, there exists a current serious problem of overcrowding at the state correctional facilities, the Maine State Prison in Thomaston and the Maine Correctional Center in South Windham; and

Whereas, these conditions of overcrowding have already resulted in a lawsuit by inmates of the Maine State Prison against the State; and

Whereas, the Department of Mental Health and Corrections has prepared plans to alleviate some of the existing conditions, calling for the development of additional minimum-security work release capability in various sections of the State; 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. The following funds shall be appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

1978-79

MENTAL HEALTH AND CORRECTIONS,
DEPARTMENT OF

Correctional Improvements Program

Unallocated

\$355,000

These funds shall not lapse on June 30, 1979,
but shall be carried over through June 30,
1980

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

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to provide funds on an emergency basis to the Department of Mental Health and Corrections so it may immediately open a minimum-security unit in the central part of the State and work towards the opening of another unit, probably in the northern part of the State, by the fall of 1979.