

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(Governor's Bill)  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1820**

H. P. 1714

House of Representatives, January 18, 1980

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk of the House

Presented by Mr. Hughes of Auburn.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY

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**AN ACT Providing Release Benefits for Certain Persons Discharged from the  
Maine Correctional Center.**

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

**Sec. 1. 34 MRSA § 817 is enacted to read:**

**§ 817. Emergency release funds**

**At the time of parole or discharge, any inmate of the Maine Correctional Center may request, in writing, of the superintendent, emergency release funds. The superintendent may then furnish a sum of money not to exceed \$50 and provide transportation or transportation costs to the place of conviction or to the home of the person, if within the State. It shall be the superintendent's responsibility to determine the need of each request based on the inmate's ability to earn money while incarcerated and an examination of the inmate's account during his last 6 months of confinement.**

**Sec. 2. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1980-81	1981-82
MENTAL HEALTH AND CORRECTIONS, DEPARTMENT OF		
Maine Correctional Center		
All Other	\$10,000	\$10,000

These funds shall be used to provide emergency release funds pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 34, section 817.

**STATEMENT OF FACT**

Since the advent of the new Criminal Code and the inclusion of the female prison population on the grounds of the Maine Correctional Center, it is apparent there is need for short duration community support. Prior to enactment of the Criminal Code, inmates of this institution were youthful offenders and returned to the community and to their families. This is no longer true as most offenders are older and are released directly to the community without any parental support. This bill will allow the Maine Correctional Center to provide similar services to those now provided for Maine state prisoners.