

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2186

H.P. 1656

House of Representatives, March 6, 1984

Submitted by the Department of Corrections pursuant to Joint Rule 24.
Reference to the Committee on Health and Institutional Services is
suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative McHenry of Madawaska.

Cosponsors: Representative Mayo of Thomaston, Representative Mahany
of Easton and Representative Benoit of So. Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FOUR

AN ACT to Establish Farm Programs at
Correctional Facilities.

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

34-A MRSA §1403, sub-§7 is enacted to read:

7. Establishment of farm programs at correctional facilities. The commissioner may establish a farm program at each correctional facility for the purposes of producing agricultural and farm products and teaching prisoners and juvenile clients cultivation and gardening techniques.

A. Products from those farm programs shall be used by correctional facilities. If a surplus exists, it may be sold to other state, county or local governmental agencies.

1 B. The revenue generated by the sale of those
2 farm products shall be deposited in a special ac-
3 count. This account shall not lapse at the end of
4 a fiscal year but may be carried forward from
5 year to year. If the amount in the fund exceeds
6 \$100,000, the excess in the account shall be
7 transferred to the General Fund.

8 C. These funds in this special account may be
9 expended to implement farm programs in correc-
10 tional facilities. These expenditures include,
11 but are not limited to, the purchase of necessary
12 materials and equipment, construction, adminis-
13 trative costs and employee salaries.

14 STATEMENT OF FACT

15 In 1983 an experimental farm program at the mini-
16 mum security unit of the Maine State Prison generated
17 approximately 226,050 pounds of potatoes and 78,000
18 pounds of squash. The value of this produce to the
19 prison was \$32,209. Seven prisoners worked in this
20 project full time and during planting, cultivating
21 and harvesting between 10 and 31 inmates were needed.
22 The equipment used by the inmates was left over from
23 the original farming operation. The Department of
24 Corrections would like to expand the program at the
25 prison and establish such a program at other institu-
26 tions.

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