

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1174

H.P. 873 House of Representatives, April 9, 1987  
Reference to the Committee on Human Resources suggested  
and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative BOST of Orono.

Cosponsored by Representatives CARROLL of Gray, MANNING  
of Portland and THISTLE of Dover-Foxcroft.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Institute a Literacy Educational  
Program in State Correctional  
Facilities.

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

34-A MRSA §1403, sub-§10 is enacted to read:

10. Literacy programs. The commissioner may es-  
tablish a literacy program at each correctional fa-  
cility for the purpose of raising the literacy rate  
of prisoners and juvenile clients. The commissioner  
may carry out that authority by arrangements with  
volunteer individuals or agencies, by utilizing ex-  
isting qualified staff or by hiring new staff.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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This State has one of the lowest literacy rates in the country. It is commonly accepted that persons confined to prisons and juvenile offender facilities have a lower literacy rate than the general population. Such facilities are an ideal place to offer literacy programs. Raising the literacy rate of prisoners and juvenile clients may make readjustment easier following discharge and may reduce recidivism.

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The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Commissioner of Corrections to provide literacy programs by a variety of means to prisoners and juvenile clients.

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