

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1543

H.P. 1133 House of Representatives, May 13, 1987  
Submitted by the Department of Corrections pursuant to  
Joint Rule 24.

Reference to the Committee on Human Resources suggested  
and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative KIMBALL of Buxton.

Cosponsored by Senators GAUVREAU of Androscoggin, PERKINS  
of Hancock, and Representative STROUT of Corinth.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Promote the Coordination of State  
Prevention Programs for Juveniles.

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3

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

6 34-A MRSA §7002, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1983,  
7 c. 459, §6, is repealed and the following enacted in  
8 its place:

9 2. Planning. The department shall plan for iden-  
10 tifying, evaluating and meeting the service needs for  
11 prevention of juvenile crimes and rehabilitation of  
12 juveniles adjudicated as having committed juvenile  
13 crimes. To ensure that the department's efforts to  
14 plan for and deliver prevention programs avoid dupli-  
15 cation of the efforts of other state departments  
16 which serve juveniles and promote access to services,  
17 the commissioner shall:

1 A. Constitute an interdepartmental coordinating  
2 committee on primary prevention, which shall be  
3 chaired by the commissioner or his designee and  
4 include representation from the Department of Ed-  
5 ucational and Cultural Services, the Department  
6 of Human Services, the Department of Labor, the  
7 Department of Mental Health and Mental Retarda-  
8 tion, the Department of Public Safety, the Juve-  
9 venile Justice Advisory Group and such other public  
10 or private agencies as the commissioner may wish  
11 to nominate which have responsibilities associ-  
12 ated with preventing not only delinquency but al-  
13 so child abuse, substance abuse, running away  
14 from home, truancy and failing to complete school  
15 and other destructive behavior which affects ju-  
16 veniles. This coordinating committee shall:

17 (1) Develop a state primary prevention plan  
18 which provides for the use of state re-  
19 sources in ways that will strengthen the  
20 commitment of local communities to altering  
21 conditions which contribute to delinquency  
22 and other destructive behaviors which affect  
23 juveniles, so that the burden of  
24 state-funded treatment and crisis-responsive  
25 service programs will be reduced. The plan  
26 must provide for the coordination and con-  
27 solidation of the primary prevention plan-  
28 ning efforts of each of the state agencies  
29 specified in this section. The plan must  
30 set forth quantifiable and time-limited  
31 goals, objectives and strategies and include  
32 proposals to integrate and build upon suc-  
33 cessful primary prevention programs;

34 (2) Provide for the evaluation of policies  
35 and programs developed and implemented pur-  
36 suant to the plan; and

37 (3) Prepare, annually by November 1st, an  
38 appraisal of the state's primary prevention  
39 activities during the previous year and its  
40 recommendations for programs and activities  
41 relating to primary prevention.

STATEMENT OF FACT

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2 At present, each of the State's primary youth  
3 serving departments develop, separately, plans and  
4 programs to prevent the delinquent, antisocial and  
5 self-destructive behaviors which are most closely re-  
6 lated to the mission of the individual departments.  
7 Current research indicated that such behaviors as de-  
8 linquency, running away from home, truancy, dropping  
9 out of school, chemical abuse, etc., are frequently  
10 interrelated, rooted in common social and familial  
11 disfunctions and may be exhibited concurrently by the  
12 same youth. This parochial approach may not only  
13 produce duplication of efforts but may often, as  
14 well, inappropriately limit eligibility for services.

15 Requiring the Department of Corrections, the De-  
16 partment of Educational and Cultural Services, the  
17 Department of Human Services and the Department of  
18 Mental Health and Mental Retardation to jointly plan  
19 for the development and implementation of prevention  
20 programs and to coordinate, as well, funding for and  
21 monitoring of these projects, will reduce  
22 redundancies among the State's prevention efforts and  
23 expand access to the same programs and services.

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