

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1982

H.P. 1471 House of Representatives, January 7, 1988
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 TAYLOR of Camden.

Cosponsored by Senator GILL of Cumberland,
Representatives ANTHONY of South Portland and MANNING of
Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 AN ACT to Exempt from Labeling
2 Requirements Goods Produced Under
3 Certification issued by the United States
4 Department of Justice Pursuant to the Prison
5 Industries Enhancement Act.
6

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

9 34-A MRSA §1403, sub-§9, ¶C, as enacted by PL
10 1985, c. 821, §21, is amended to read:

1 C. All goods manufactured at a correctional
2 facility for sale shall be distinctly labeled or
3 branded with the words "Manufactured at a Maine
4 State Correctional Facility", except those goods
5 produced under a program certified by the United
6 States Department of Justice pursuant to the
7 Prison Industries Enhancement Act, Public Law
8 96-157, Section 827 (1979).

9 STATEMENT OF FACT

10 Work release programs are not available to persons
11 with the more restricted security classifications and
12 long-term sentences; thus, they are excluded from
13 meaningful employment and the earning of prevailing
14 wages, which tends to have a negative effect upon
15 rehabilitation. Federal legislation now exists which
16 provides for 20 correctional programs throughout the
17 country to enter into working agreements with local
18 industries to provide for the manufacture and assembly
19 of goods to be shipped in interstate commerce.
20 However, these companies do not wish to have their
21 products which may be only manufactured in part within
22 a correctional facility labeled as manufactured by
23 prisoner labor. This bill would exempt from labeling
24 requirements only those goods manufactured under the
25 Federal Certification Program. The Department of
26 Corrections would thus be enabled to more readily
27 enter into such agreements with major manufacturers
28 and, therefore, provide purposeful work for the
29 prisoners, thereby reducing prison tension, increasing

1 job skills and providing a greater opportunity for
2 prisoner rehabilitation, as well as some support for
3 their dependents. This bill is urgently needed in
4 order that the department may participate in this
5 program since the federal law limits the total number
6 of projects to 20. As of August 1987, there were 10
7 applications already approved, 3 pending and 3 or 4
8 more jurisdictions were in the process of making
9 applications.

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