

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 45

S.P. 62

In Senate, January 31, 1989

Reported by Senator BUSTIN of Kennebec for the Joint Select Committee on Corrections pursuant to Joint Order S.P. 16.

Reference to the Joint Select Committee on Corrections suggested and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 18.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

STATE OF MAINE

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

Resolve, to Request the Department of Corrections to Undertake a Probation Systems Management Study.

(EMERGENCY)



1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts and resolves of the
Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after
3 adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

5 Whereas, this study needs to begin immediately to determine
appropriate probation strategies for effective long-range
7 management of Maine's offender population; and

9 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
11 Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
13 safety; now, therefore, be it

15 **Establishment; duties. Resolved:** That the Department of
Corrections shall undertake a comprehensive study of its
17 probation system. The study shall include, but not be limited
to, the following:

19 1. Improvements to the existing information system,
21 emphasizing improved data collection of information about the
risks posed by offenders on probation and the needs associated
23 with those offenders, program evaluation and offender tracking.
Full consideration should be given to the adoption of a
25 presentence investigation system which provides detailed and
specific recommendations to judges at the time of sentencing;

27 2. A thorough review of the probation classification
29 system, including the need for uniformity in record keeping;

31 3. An evaluation of the current staff to offender ratio.
Current staffing ratios are often in excess of 100 cases per
33 officer. The department has indicated that a 1:75 ratio for
adult supervision and a 1:35 ratio for juvenile supervision,
35 coupled with enough clerical assistance to handle anticipated
workload increases, would alleviate some of the difficulties
37 arising from such a large number of offenders. The probation
management study shall focus on the need to reduce ratios to 1
39 75, with the long-range objective of 1 to 50;

41 4. A review of a full range of probation programming. The
study shall include a review of the current probation system, a
43 study of other probation department procedures which could be
adopted by Maine's probation system and the resources the
45 department would need to undertake such programs. It shall also
recommend how these programs could effectively identify
47 prison-bound offenders who could be integrated into the community;

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Provides funds to contract for services to
assist the department in conducting this
study.

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Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the
preamble, this resolve shall take effect when approved.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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This resolve provides an appropriation to the Department of
Corrections so it may enter into a contractual agreement to
undertake a comprehensive study of its probation system.

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