

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

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Legislative Document

No. 931

S.P. 341

In Senate, March 4, 1991

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on March 4, 1991. Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and 1,400 ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 14.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator PEARSON of Penobscot

Cosponsored by Senator BUSTIN of Kennebec, Representative CARROLL of Gray, Senator COLLINS of Aroostook, Representative SIMONDS of Cape Elizabeth and Representative COLES of Harpswell.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE

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**An Act to Provide Property Tax Relief by Providing Funds for County  
Jails.**

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(EMERGENCY)

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

4  
Whereas, county jails are a major component of the State's  
6 correctional system; and

8  
Whereas, the expense of operating county jails is financed  
by municipalities within the county through the property tax with  
10 little or no control over the budget for jail operation; and

12  
Whereas, it is necessary to immediately begin to alter the  
funding mechanism for county jails to more broadly based revenue  
14 sources at the state level as a means of providing local property  
tax relief; and

16  
Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts  
18 create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of  
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately  
20 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and  
safety; now, therefore,

22  
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

24  
30-A MRSA §709 is enacted to read:

26  
**§709. Responsibility for funding county jails**

28  
**1. County jails. The responsibility for funding county  
30 jails shifts to the State according to the following timetable.**

32  
**A. Beginning on July 1, 1991, the State shall pay 10% of  
the costs associated with the county jail system, including,  
34 but not limited to, the costs for personnel, operation,  
maintenance, construction and debt service.**

36  
**B. Beginning on July 1, 1992, the State shall pay 20% of  
38 the costs associated with the county jail system, including,  
but not limited to, the costs for personnel, operation,  
40 maintenance, construction and debt service.**

42  
**C. Beginning on July 1, 1993, the State shall pay 30% of  
the costs associated with the county jail system, including,  
44 but not limited to, the costs for personnel, operation,  
maintenance, construction and debt service.**

46  
**D. Beginning on July 1, 1994, the State shall pay 40% of  
48 the costs associated with the county jail system, including,  
but not limited to, the costs for personnel, operation,  
50 maintenance, construction and debt service.**

2 E. Beginning on July 1, 1995, the State shall pay 50% of  
4 the costs associated with the county jail system, including,  
but not limited to, the costs for personnel, operation,  
maintenance, construction and debt service.

6 F. Beginning on July 1, 1996, the State shall pay 60% of  
8 the costs associated with the county jail system, including,  
but not limited to, the costs for personnel, operation,  
maintenance, construction and debt service.

10 G. Beginning on July 1, 1997, the State shall pay 70% of  
12 the costs associated with the county jail system, including,  
14 but not limited to, the costs for personnel, operation,  
maintenance, construction and debt service.

16 H. Beginning on July 1, 1998, the State shall pay 80% of  
18 the costs associated with the county jail system, including,  
but not limited to, the costs for personnel, operation,  
maintenance, construction and debt service.

20 I. Beginning on July 1, 1999, the State shall pay 90% of  
22 the costs associated with the county jail system, including,  
24 but not limited to, the costs for personnel, operation,  
maintenance, construction and debt service.

26 J. Beginning on July 1, 2000, the State shall pay 100% of  
28 the costs associated with the county jail system, including,  
but not limited to, the costs for personnel, operation,  
maintenance, construction and debt service.

30 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the  
32 preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

34 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

36 This bill increases the State's share of funding county  
38 jails over a 10-year period leading up to a total assumption of  
40 the cost of the county jails beginning on July 1, 2000.