

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

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Legislative Document

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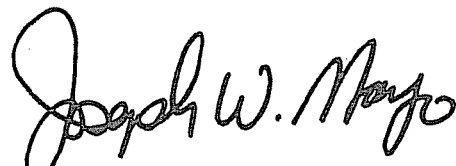
House of Representatives, February 23, 1993

**Resolve, to Require the Maine Criminal Justice Commission to Study  
Adult Inmate Education and Training in the Correctional System.**

(EMERGENCY)

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

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative PFEIFFER of Brunswick.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: ADAMS of Portland, DAGGETT of Augusta, ERWIN of  
Rumford, OLIVER of Portland, WINN of Glenburn, Senators: CONLEY of Cumberland,  
HANDY of Androscoggin.

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

4  
6       Whereas, most prison inmates are undereducated when compared  
to the general population; and

8       Whereas, there is a correlation between education and  
positive life experiences, and some studies show a correlation  
10 between more prison education and lower recidivism; and

12       Whereas, state prison programs have been severely affected  
by budget cuts and the education program at the State's prisons  
14 has a below-average participation rate; and

16       Whereas, there are a number of innovative programs being  
utilized or studied in other states; and

18  
20       Whereas, it is essential to complete a study of inmate  
education and training by the beginning of the next session of  
the Legislature so that the findings of the study can be  
22 implemented at the earliest time; and

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

30       **Sec. 1. Maine Criminal Justice Commission required to study inmate  
education and experience. Resolved:** That the Maine Criminal Justice  
32 Commission, referred to in this resolve as the "commission,"  
shall study adult inmate education and training in the  
34 correctional system. The commission may employ subcommittees for  
this purpose and may appoint nonmembers to these subcommittees;  
36 and be it further

38       **Sec. 2. Agencies to participate. Resolved:** That either through  
subcommittee membership or inviting their testimony, the  
40 commission shall involve the Department of Education, the Maine  
Technical College System, the State Apprenticeship and Training  
42 Council, the Department of Labor, the boards of visitors of the  
various correctional facilities, the Maine Correctional Advisory  
44 Commission, the Institute for Inmates at Work, the Jail  
Industries Institute and the Office of Advocacy within the  
46 Department of Corrections; and be it further

48       **Sec. 3. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall study the  
basic and vocational education provided to the State's adult  
50 prisoners. The study must include:

2       **1. Questions to be examined.** The commission shall examine  
the following questions.

4           A. What should be the measurable goals for the education  
6           and training program?

8           B. What should be the standards for the programs to achieve  
these goals?

10          C. How can a program be set up to monitor whether the  
12          prisoners are receiving the education planned for them and  
to evaluate whether that education is achieving the desired  
14          goals? How can controlled tests be set up to allow the  
evaluation of alternative programs?

16          D. How can improvements be made within current budget  
18          constraints? What funding sources other than state funding  
are available?

20          E. How can participation in the basic education programs be  
22          improved? For example, should the following be utilized:  
pay, good time, job promotion, positive reenforcement,  
24          privileges, other incentives and mandates?

26          F. How can it be ensured that the educational programs are  
accredited by the appropriate state professional agencies  
28          and that graduates of the vocational program meet the  
qualifications for receiving licenses or credentials in  
30          their respective industries?

32          G. Is vocational training geared to the talents and  
interests of the student and to the job market?

34          H. Which of the following should the program involve and in  
36          what order of priority: literacy and the definition of  
literacy; vocational training and specific industries for  
38          that training; personal growth; self esteem; social skills;  
life skills; and morals and values?

40          I. Should the program include persons on probation and  
42          persons involved in community corrections?

44          J. Where should responsibility for the education and  
training programs be located? For example, should it be  
46          with the commissioner's office, the individual facility  
superintendent, the local school system, the Department of  
48          Education or the Maine Technical College System?

50          K. What agencies should provide staffing for the various  
education and training programs?

2           **2. Tasks to be undertaken.** The commission and its staff  
shall undertake the following tasks to answer the questions of  
4 subsection 1:

6           A. Obtain materials from and, if desirable and possible,  
arrange for the appearance of persons from the following  
8 agencies:

10                 (1) The Institute for Inmates at Work;

12                 (2) The Jail Industries Institute of the National  
Institute of Justice;

14                 (3) The Contract Literacy Center, Lincoln, Nebraska;

16                 (4) The Correctional Educational Association;

18                 (5) The Correctional Industries Association of the  
20 Council of State Governments;

22                 (6) The Office of Correctional Education of the United  
States Department of Education;

24                 (7) The National Institute of Corrections; and

26                 (8) The Association of State and Federal Directors of  
28 Corrections Education;

30           B. Explore the following funding sources:

32                 (1) The National Literacy Act; and

34                 (2) The Federal Vocational Education Act; and

36           C. Investigate the following specific programs:

38                 (1) Telemarketing;

40                 (2) Computer-based education, including International  
Business Machine's Principle of the Alphabet Literacy  
42 System;

44                 (3) Collective learning;

46                 (4) A letter writing and reading strategy called "The  
Letter," which is congruent to the language experience  
48 approach, for teaching basic education;

50                 (5) The "TIE" program, which integrates training,  
industries and education;

- 2 (6) Cooperative learning;  
4 (7) Work programs;  
6 (8) A prison library;  
8 (9) Privatization of training; and  
10 (10) Johns Hopkins University Reading Academy Program;  
and be it further  
12

13 **Sec. 4. Staffing. Resolved:** That the commission shall provide  
14 for staffing. If it is unable to provide for staffing, the  
commission may request staff assistance from the Legislative  
16 Council; and be it further

17 **Sec. 5. Reporting requirements. Resolved:** That the commission  
18 present a written report of its recommendations together with any  
19 implementing legislation to the Executive Director of the  
20 Legislative Council and to the Joint Select Committee on  
21 Corrections by January 1, 1994 and make a verbal presentation to  
22 that committee by February 1, 1994. The commission must  
23 prioritize its recommendations and provide estimated costs for  
24 implementation of those recommendations. The commission shall  
25 take into account the financial situation of State Government in  
26 making its recommendations.  
27

28 The committee shall send a copy of its report to the Law and  
29 Legislative Reference Library and to those agencies identified in  
30 section 2.  
31

32 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the  
33 preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.  
34

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36

#### 37 STATEMENT OF FACT

38 This resolve requires the Maine Criminal Justice Commission  
39 to study the education and training programs in the State's adult  
40 correctional facilities and make recommendations to the  
41 Legislature concerning those recommendations.  
42  
43  
44