

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

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Legislative Document

No. 95

H.P. 70

House of Representatives, January 9, 1997

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**An Act Concerning Prisoner Participation in Public Works Projects.**

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Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative MAYO of Bath.  
Cosponsored by Senator SMALL of Sagadahoc and  
Representatives: CLUKEY of Houlton, McALEVEY of Waterboro, WHEELER of  
Bridgewater.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §1304, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

6 4. If the court sentences a person to imprisonment for  
8 nonpayment of a fine, the court may authorize, at the time of  
10 sentencing only, participation of the person in a project under  
12 Title 30-A, section 1606 with the agreement of the sheriff of the  
14 county jail where the person is committed. The person's sentence  
16 must be prorated according to the provisions of Title 30-A,  
18 section 1606, subsection 2.

20 **Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §1606, sub-§2,** as amended by PL 1989, c.  
22 629, §2, is further amended to read:

24 **2. Sentence prorated.** Inmates participating in a public  
26 works-related project or an improvement of property owned by a  
28 charitable organization under this section shall must have their  
30 sentences to the jail prorated at the rate of one day removed  
32 from the sentences for every 16 hours of participation in the  
34 project, except that inmates committed to the custody of the  
36 sheriff for nonpayment of fines under Title 17-A, section 1304  
must have their sentences prorated at the rate of one day removed  
from the sentences for every one hour of participation in the  
project.

### SUMMARY

This bill allows a person committed to a county jail for nonpayment of a fine to participate in a public works project or improvement of property owned by a charitable organization with the permission of the court and the sheriff of the county jail at the time of sentencing. Persons participating in such projects will have their sentences reduced at the rate of one day for every hour of participation in the project.