

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1528

H.P. 1131

House of Representatives, March 8, 2001

**An Act to Improve the Delivery of Religious Services to Prisoners in the
Maine Correctional System.**

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative McKEE of Wayne.
Cosponsored by Senator KILKELLY of Lincoln and
Representatives: LAVERRIERE-BOUCHER of Biddeford, SKOGLUND of St. George,
STEDMAN of Hartland, WATSON of Farmingdale, WESTON of Montville, Senators:
CATHCART of Penobscot, KNEELAND of Aroostook.

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

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Sec. 1. 34-A MRSA §3012 is enacted to read:

§3012. Director of religious services

1. Director of religious services. The commissioner shall appoint a director of religious services. The director shall report directly to the commissioner.

2. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Department facilities" means a correctional facility, detention facility or a facility for which the department is required to establish standards pursuant to section 1208 or 1208-A.

B. "Director" means the director of religious services.

3. Duties. The duties of the director include:

A. Providing oversight, supervision and evaluation of religious programs of the department;

B. Conducting an assessment of the religious needs of department facilities and clients;

C. Researching national efforts in order to improve religious services in department facilities;

D. Establishing a communication network among department chaplains, county jail ministries and other providers of religious services to clients in the State;

E. Increasing the public's knowledge of religious needs of clients through partnership with the Maine Council of Churches or a successor organization;

F. Establishing standard practices for the education and training of religious volunteers;

G. Acting as a clearinghouse and contact for churches or religious groups in the State interested in contributing time or resources to department ministries, supplying information about volunteer opportunities to churches and working with churches on the transition of clients who are reentering communities; and

