MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

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, Clerk

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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.

	Sec. 1. 34-A MRSA §3012 is enacted to read:
4	factor picture of malinisms assuited
6	§3012. Director of religious services
Ü	1. Director of religious services. The commissioner shall
8	appoint a director of religious services. The director shall
	report directly to the commissioner.
10	
	2. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the
12	context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the
	following meanings.
14	3 - MD
16	A. "Department facilities" means a correctional facility,
16	detention facility or a facility for which the department is required to establish standards pursuant to section 1208 or
18	1208-A.
10	1200-A.
20	B. "Director" means the director of religious services.
22	3. Duties. The duties of the director include:
24	A. Providing oversight, supervision and evaluation of
	religious programs of the department;
26	
	B. Conducting an assessment of the religious needs of
28	department facilities and clients;
30	C. Researching national efforts in order to improve
30	religious services in department facilities;
32	religious services in department lacificies,
-	D. Establishing a communication network among department
34	chaplains, county jail ministries and other providers of
	religious services to clients in the State;
36	
	E. Increasing the public's knowledge of religious needs of
38	clients through partnership with the Maine Council of
4.0	Churches or a successor organization;
40	E Fatablishing standard apporting for the advention and
42	F. Establishing standard practices for the education and training of religious volunteers;
42	craining or religious volunceers,
44	G. Acting as a clearinghouse and contact for churches or
	religious groups in the State interested in contributing
46	time or resources to department ministries, supplying
	information about volunteer opportunities to churches and
48	working with churches on the transition of clients who are
	reentering communities; and
50	

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

2

2	facilities for worship.
4	Sec. 2. 34-A MRSA §3408 is enacted to read:
6	§3408. Chaplain
8	1. Appointment. The warden shall appoint a suitable person as chaplain. Notwithstanding Title 5, section 902, subsection 3,
10	any part-time chaplain position at the Maine Correctional Center may be a job-sharing position.
12	
14	2. Duties. The chaplain shall, in accordance with the rules of the Maine Correctional Center:
16	A. Conduct religious services;
18	B. Visit the sick;
20	C. Labor diligently and faithfully for the mental, moral
22	and religious improvement of the prisoners; and
24	D. Aid the prisoners, when practicable, in obtaining employment after their discharge.
26	3. Powers. The chaplain may, with the assent of the warden,
28	establish a religious educational program and may admit a person of proper character from outside the Maine Correctional Center to
30	assist with the program.
32	SUMMARY
34	This bill creates the position of director of religious
36	services to oversee religious activities in the Department of Corrections and the position of chaplain at the Maine
38	Correctional Center.