

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 907

S.P. 303

In Senate, February 20, 2003

**Resolve, Directing the Department of Corrections To Develop a Plan
To Improve Transitional Services for Sex Offenders and Sexually
Violent Predators and To Improve Communications with Law
Enforcement Agencies Regarding the Release of Sex Offenders**

(EMERGENCY)

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

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

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Representative MAKAS of Lewiston and
Senators: DOUGLASS of Androscoggin, SAWYER of Penobscot, Representatives:
BLANCHETTE of Bangor, CRAVEN of Lewiston, GERZOFKY of Brunswick, MAILHOT
of Lewiston, O'BRIEN of Lewiston, WALCOTT of Lewiston.

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,** there is an immediate need for transitional
services for sex offenders and sexually violent predators,
including support for housing and employment and treatment, in
8 the communities to which the sex offenders return after release
from incarceration; and

10
12 **Whereas,** improved communication between the Department of
Corrections and law enforcement agencies is essential to ensuring
awareness, public safety and more successful transitioning of sex
14 offenders and sexually violent predators back into society; and

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

22 **Sec. 1. Department of Corrections to develop plan to establish**
24 transitional services for sex offenders and sexually violent predators and to
improve communications with law enforcement agencies. Resolved: That
the Department of Corrections, in coordination with other state
26 agencies, the Legislature, law enforcement officers, private
service providers and other interested parties, shall develop a
28 plan to establish transitional services for sex offenders and
sexually violent predators released from incarceration, including
30 community support for housing and employment and necessary
counseling and treatment. The department shall also, in
32 coordination with the Legislature and law enforcement officers,
develop a plan to improve communications between the department
34 and law enforcement agencies regarding the conditional release
and discharge of sex offenders and sexually violent predators
36 from incarceration. The department shall present a report,
including its recommendations and plans for implementation of
38 those recommendations, to the Joint Standing Committee on
Criminal Justice and Public Safety by May 1, 2003. The Joint
40 Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety may
report out legislation to implement the recommendations if
42 necessary.

44 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.
46

48 **SUMMARY**

50 This resolve directs the Department of Corrections to

2 develop a plan to establish transitional services for sex
3 offenders and sexually violent predators released from
4 incarceration, including community support for housing and
5 employment and necessary counseling and treatment, and to improve
6 communications between the department and law enforcement
7 agencies regarding the conditional release and discharge of sex
8 offenders and sexually violent predators. The Department of
9 Corrections shall report to the Joint Standing Committee on
10 Criminal Justice and Public Safety by May 1, 2003, and the
committee has authority to report out any necessary legislation
to implement recommendations.