

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 442

H.P. 330

House of Representatives, February 10, 2009

**An Act To Require Prisoners To Perform Community Service and
To Require Jails, Prisons, Nonprofit Entities, Universities and
Counties To Compost Food Waste**

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative McFADDEN of Dennysville. (BY REQUEST)
Cosponsored by Senator CRAVEN of Androscoggin and
Representatives: AYOTTE of Caswell, CRAY of Palmyra, FLETCHER of Winslow,
GIFFORD of Lincoln, JOY of Crystal, SAVIELLO of Wilton; THIBODEAU of Winterport.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §1345-A** is enacted to read:

3 **§1345-A. Mandatory community service by inmates**

4 1. A person sentenced to a period of imprisonment and committed to the custody of
5 the Department of Corrections or a county jail shall participate in community service
6 work as determined appropriate by the chief administrative officer of the correctional
7 facility.

8 2. The Department of Corrections and each county jail shall establish community
9 service programs that include, at a minimum: constructing raised bed gardens for the
10 correctional facility, the community or individuals; growing, harvesting and storing the
11 gardens' crops; and composting all food wastes.

12 3. The Department of Corrections and the county jails may seek the support of the
13 State Board of Corrections in adopting policies necessary to implement the purposes of
14 this section.

15 **Sec. 2. Composting initiative.** The University of Maine System, the Maine
16 Community College System, Maine Maritime Academy and all counties and public
17 nonprofit entities that prepare and serve meals, including, but not limited to, hospitals,
18 county jails and prisons, shall develop and implement food composting programs no later
19 than December 30, 2009. Composted materials may be distributed to the Department of
20 Corrections and to county jails as needed for the purpose of supporting their community
21 service gardens under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 17-A, section 1345-A. The
22 Department of Corrections shall collect information from its correctional facilities and the
23 county jails about participation in the food composting programs and report its findings to
24 the Legislature by March 1, 2010.

25 **SUMMARY**

26 This bill requires the Department of Corrections and the county jails to establish
27 community service programs for inmates and requires inmates to participate in those
28 programs as determined appropriate. The community service programs may include any
29 service, but must include a gardening program. The Department of Corrections and the
30 county jails may seek the support of the State Board of Corrections in developing and
31 implementing the community service programs.

32 The bill also requires the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College
33 System, Maine Maritime Academy and all counties and nonprofit entities, including, but
34 not limited to, hospitals, county jails and prisons that prepare and serve meals, to develop
35 and implement food composting programs no later than December 30, 2009. Composted
36 materials may be distributed to the Department of Corrections and to county jails as
37 needed for the purpose of supporting their community service gardens.