

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 1074

H.P. 809

House of Representatives, March 15, 2011

An Act To Create the Position of Juvenile Community Service Director in the Department of Corrections

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Clerk

Presented by Representative SHAW of Standish.

Cosponsored by Representatives: HANLEY of Gardiner, HASKELL of Portland, PLUMMER of Windham, SANBORN of Gorham, Senator: PATRICK of Oxford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 34-A MRSA §7009** is enacted to read:

3 **§7009. Juvenile Community Service Director**

4 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the
5 following terms have the following meanings.

6 A. "Database" means the comprehensive community service program database as
7 described in subsection 3, paragraph C.

8 B. "Director" means the Juvenile Community Service Director.

9 C. "Program" means a community service program for juveniles.

10 **2. Appointment.** The Juvenile Community Service Director is appointed by the
11 commissioner and serves at the pleasure of the commissioner.

12 **3. Duties and responsibilities.** The director shall consult with juvenile community
13 corrections officers, the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group, the judicial branch, prosecutors
14 and other juvenile justice agencies to identify effective services for juvenile clients. The
15 director shall coordinate volunteers, community businesses and nonprofit organizations to
16 create opportunities for programs for juveniles and manage the database under paragraph
17 C. Specifically, the director shall:

18 A. Provide oversight and direction for the achievement of juvenile community
19 service through planning and executing innovative programs;

20 B. Evaluate and improve upon the structure, systems, resources and tools of the
21 juvenile justice system and juvenile community services and treatment programs to
22 maximize effectiveness and ensure efficient and effective operations and measurable
23 growth in the provision of programs for juveniles;

24 C. Create and organize a comprehensive community service database that includes
25 contact information for all programs that are available through nonprofit
26 organizations, faith-based groups, business partners and other persons and that may
27 be used to obtain high school credit or satisfy court-ordered community service. The
28 database must include at least one telephone number or publicly accessible website to
29 enable volunteers to find the information needed to join a program in their own
30 community;

31 D. Communicate with all organizations that offer programs for juveniles and publish
32 on a publicly accessible website a current schedule of programs by zip code;

33 E. Recruit businesses to provide meaningful programs to benefit juveniles and the
34 community and assist those businesses in creating programs and matching them with
35 the organizations that work with volunteers;

36 F. Inform schools of the database and assist them in finding or creating programs
37 within each school unit; and

1 G. Evaluate the quality and performance of programs to ensure that there is proper
2 oversight and that the programs are effective. The director shall provide this
3 information to schools, the department, the courts and the Legislature.

4 **4. Costs; rules.** The costs of maintaining the director position may not be supported
5 by the General Fund but must be supported by probation fees paid by juveniles and adults
6 in the correctional system. The department shall determine through rulemaking the cost
7 necessary to support the director position and the implementation of the director's duties.
8 Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,
9 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. The department also shall introduce legislation proposing
10 statutory changes to probation fees that it determines necessary to support the director
11 position and the director's duties.

12 SUMMARY

13 This bill creates the position of Juvenile Community Service Director in the
14 Department of Corrections. The director's duties include coordinating volunteers and
15 community businesses and nonprofit organizations to create opportunities for community
16 service programs for juveniles and a comprehensive information network of those
17 opportunities and assisting juvenile community corrections officers, the court,
18 prosecutors and schools to find appropriate community service programs. The cost of
19 maintaining the director position may not be paid with General Fund money but must be
20 supported by probation fees, the amount of which must be determined by the Department
21 of Corrections.