

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1598

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Date: 3/12/12

(Filing No. H-760)

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

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STATE OF MAINE

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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125TH LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1204, L.D. 1598, Bill, "An Act To Clarify the Court's Authority To Grant Credit Given for Jail Time toward Payment of Fines"

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Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting the following:

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'Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §1304, sub-§3, ¶A, as amended by PL 2011, c. 334, §1, is further amended to read:

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A. Unless the offender shows by a preponderance of the evidence that the default was not attributable to an intentional or knowing refusal to obey the court's order or to a failure on the offender's part to make a good faith effort to obtain the funds required for the payment, the court shall find that the default was unexcused and may:

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(1) Commit the offender to the custody of the sheriff until all or a specified part of the fine is paid. The length of confinement in a county jail for unexcused default must be specified in the court's order and may not exceed ~~one day for every \$100 of unpaid fine or 6 months, whichever is shorter.~~ An offender committed for nonpayment of a fine is given credit toward the payment of the fine for each day of confinement that the offender is in custody, at the rate specified in the court's order, which may not be less than \$25 or more than \$100 of unpaid fine for each day of confinement. The offender is also given credit for each day that the offender is detained as the result of an arrest warrant issued pursuant to this section. An offender is responsible for paying any fine remaining after receiving credit for confinement and detention. A default on the remaining fine is also governed by this section; or

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(2) If the unexcused default relates to a fine imposed for a Class D or Class E crime, as authorized by chapter 53, order the offender to perform community service work, as authorized in chapter 54-C, until all or a specified part of the fine is paid. The number of hours of community service work must be specified in the court's order and ~~may not exceed 8 hours for every \$25 of unpaid fine or~~ the offender must receive a credit against the unpaid fine of no less than \$25 for

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every 8 hours of community service work completed, which may not exceed one hundred 8-hour days, ~~whichever is shorter~~. An offender ordered to perform community service work pursuant to this subparagraph is given credit toward the payment of the fine for each 8-hour day of community service work performed at the rate specified in the court's order. The offender is also given credit toward the payment of the fine for each day that the offender is detained as a result of an arrest warrant issued pursuant to this section at a rate specified in the court's order that is up to \$100 of unpaid fine per day of confinement. An offender is responsible for paying any fine remaining after receiving credit for any detention and for community service work performed. A default on the remaining fine is also governed by this section.'

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SUMMARY

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This amendment sets a minimum amount of credit a court may grant toward payment of a fine at \$25 for each day of confinement. It also clarifies the credit regarding community service.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)



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125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1598

LR 2502(02)

An Act To Clarify the Court's Authority To Grant Credit Given for Jail Time toward Payment of Fines

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-760)
Committee: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor savings - General Fund
Minor revenue increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill may result in a minor increase in General Fund fine revenue. It may also result in minor savings to the regional and county jail system.