

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 1301

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H.P. 826

House of Representatives, March 23, 2023

**An Act Regarding Transition Coordination, Prisoner Attendance at  
Funerals, Furloughs, Visitation, Education and Discretionary  
Accounts at County Jails**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative COLLINGS of Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §1511** is enacted to read:

3 **§1511. Transition coordinator**

4 **1. Transition coordinator required.** Except as provided by subsection 2, a county  
5 jail shall employ a transition coordinator to perform the duties described in this section.

6 **2. Sharing of transition coordinator.** Two or more counties may agree to share the  
7 costs of hiring a transition coordinator, who shall perform the duties described in this  
8 section for each of the counties that are parties to the agreement.

9 **3. Duties.** The transition coordinator shall create a transition plan for each inmate  
10 scheduled for release. The transition plan must use available resources to address the  
11 following issues, as applicable to the inmate scheduled for release:

12 A. Seasonally appropriate clothing, including a winter coat;

13 B. Transportation;

14 C. Temporary housing;

15 D. Substance use disorder treatment;

16 E. Money for initial expenses; and

17 F. Any other issue for which the inmate to be released needs support.

18 **Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §1555**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C,  
19 §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further  
20 amended to read:

21 **§1555. Prisoners may attend funerals**

22 Prisoners at the county jails may, at the discretion of the sheriff, attend funerals of their  
23 legally considered mother, father, husband, wife or child if the funeral is held within the  
24 State. Prisoners must pay the cost of transportation and the fee and expenses of the officer  
25 who takes them to the funeral. Each county jail shall adopt a written policy regarding  
26 approval for prisoner attendance at funerals, including appropriate exceptions.

27 **Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §1556, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 211, §1, is further  
28 amended to read:

29 **1. Furlough authorized.** The sheriff may establish rules, including appropriate  
30 exceptions, for and permit a prisoner under the final sentence of a court a furlough from  
31 the county jail in which the prisoner is confined. Furlough may be granted for not more  
32 than 7 days at one time in order to permit the prisoner to visit a dying relative, to obtain  
33 medical services, to participate in a program operated by a jail that conditions release on  
34 regular daily reporting to the jail of the prisoner's location and activities or for any other  
35 reason consistent with the rehabilitation of an inmate or prisoner that is consistent with the  
36 laws or rules of the sheriff's department. Furlough may be granted for a period longer than  
37 7 days if required to provide treatment for a physical or mental condition of the prisoner,  
38 including a substance use disorder, as determined by a qualified licensed professional.

