

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1978

2 Date: 2/27/24

(Filing No. H-777)

3 **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

4 Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

5 **STATE OF MAINE**
6 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
7 **131ST LEGISLATURE**
8 **SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

9 COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1271, L.D. 1978, "An Act to Enact the
10 Reentry Success and Earned Time Act"

11 Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

12 **'Resolve, to Evaluate the Effectiveness of Programs Within the Department of**
13 **Corrections That Prepare Correctional Facility Residents for Employment and Self-**
14 **sufficiency Upon Release from Incarceration'**

15 Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

16 **'Sec. 1. Evaluation. Resolved:** That the University of Maine System shall evaluate
17 the effectiveness of rehabilitation, vocational and educational programs within the
18 Department of Corrections that prepare residents of correctional facilities for employment
19 and self-sufficiency upon their release from incarceration.

20 1. The evaluation must include consideration of the following:

21 A. The degree to which a resident of a correctional facility has equal access to, and
22 opportunity to engage in, the rehabilitation, vocational and educational programs based
23 on the resident's race, gender, age, classification, length of sentence, applicable good
24 time code, socioeconomic status, education and the resident's genuine attempts to
25 reintegrate into society;

26 B. The degree of successful completion of rehabilitation, vocational and educational
27 programs and an analysis of barriers to successful completion;

28 C. The degree to which an individual leaving a correctional facility can demonstrate
29 the skill sets and knowledge required to be a successful job seeker based on race,
30 gender, age, classification and length of sentence; and

31 D. The degree to which the current rehabilitation, vocational and educational programs
32 offered at correctional facilities meet the needs of the workforce.

33 2. In conducting the evaluation, the University of Maine System shall consult with,
34 and document its consultation with, the following:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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- 2 A. The Commissioner of Corrections or the commissioner's designee;
- 3 B. The Commissioner of Public Safety or the commissioner's designee;
- 4 C. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee;
- 5 D. The Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's designee;
- 6 E. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee;
- 7 F. Individuals formerly incarcerated at a Department of Corrections correctional facility that houses adult female residents;
- 8 G. Individuals formerly incarcerated at a Department of Corrections correctional facility that houses adult male residents;
- 9 H. Law enforcement officers;
- 10 I. An assistant attorney general or assistant district attorney who focuses primarily on the prosecution of criminal offenses;
- 11 J. An attorney who focuses primarily on representing defendants in criminal cases;
- 12 K. A representative of a statewide organization that advocates on behalf of victims of sexual assault;
- 13 L. A representative of a statewide organization that advocates on behalf of victims of domestic violence;
- 14 M. A representative of a statewide organization that advocates on behalf of incarcerated persons;
- 15 N. A representative of a statewide organization that advocates for the expansion of reentry programs and reentry services for incarcerated persons;
- 16 O. A representative of a statewide civil rights organization whose primary mission is focused on racial equity and justice;
- 17 P. A representative of a statewide organization that advocates for civil liberties;
- 18 Q. A representative of a statewide association that advocates for restorative justice;
- 19 R. A representative of a statewide organization that advocates on behalf of transgender individuals;
- 20 S. A representative of a statewide organization that advocates on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual individuals;
- 21 T. A representative of a statewide organization that advocates on behalf of individuals with disabilities;
- 22 U. Employers interested in hiring formerly incarcerated persons as employees;
- 23 V. A representative of a statewide organization that advocates for persons with substance use disorder; and
- 24 W. A representative of a statewide organization that advocates for persons with mental or behavioral disabilities.

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37 **Sec. 2. Interim report. Resolved:** That, by March 1, 2025, the University of
38 Maine System shall submit an interim report to the joint standing committee of the

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice matters that includes preliminary findings from its evaluation, along with any recommendations for legislation related to those findings. The committee may report out legislation based on the interim report to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.

Sec. 3. Final report. Resolved: That, by January 1, 2026, the University of Maine System shall submit a final report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice matters outlining the findings of its evaluation under section 1, along with any recommendations for policies and practices that would improve the effectiveness of programs within the Department of Corrections that prepare residents of correctional facilities for employment and self-sufficiency upon their release from incarceration, and other recommendations related to the report. The committee may report out legislation based on the final report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

**UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
Educational and General Activities - UMS 0031**

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for an evaluation of the effectiveness of programs within the Department of Corrections that prepare residents of correctional facilities for employment and self-sufficiency upon release from incarceration.

GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$175,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$175,000

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill, which is a concept draft, with a resolve. The amendment directs the University of Maine System to evaluate the effectiveness of the rehabilitation, vocational and educational programs within the Department of Corrections that prepare residents of correctional facilities for employment and self-sufficiency upon their release from incarceration.

In conducting the evaluation, the University of Maine System must include consideration of: the degree to which access to and opportunity to engage in the programs correlates with a variety of factors; the degree of successful completion of those programs and an analysis of barriers to successful completion; the degree to which an individual leaving a correctional facility can demonstrate the skill sets and knowledge required to be a successful job seeker based on race, gender, age, classification and length of sentence; and the degree to which the current educational and rehabilitative programs meet the needs of the workforce. The University of Maine System must also, in conducting the evaluation,

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consult with a number of agency heads, legal practitioners, representatives from various organizations and individuals with certain relevant experience.

The University of Maine System must submit an interim report by March 1, 2025 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice matters that includes preliminary findings from its evaluation and any recommendations based on those findings. The committee may report out legislation based on the interim report in 2025. The University of Maine System must submit a final report by January 1, 2026 outlining the findings of its evaluation, along with any recommendations for policies and practices that would improve the effectiveness of programs, and other recommendations related to the final report. The committee may report out legislation based on the final report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1978

LR 38(02)

An Act to Enact the Reentry Success and Earned Time Act

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-777)

Committee: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	Projections FY 2025-26	Projections FY 2026-27
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$0	\$175,000	\$0	\$0
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$0	\$175,000	\$0	\$0

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill includes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$175,000 in fiscal year 2024-25 to the University of Maine System for the costs associated with conducting a comprehensive evaluation of the effectiveness of programs with the Department of Corrections that prepare residents of correctional facilities for employment and self-sufficiency upon release from incarceration.

Additional costs to the Departments of Corrections, Labor, Education, Health and Human Services and the Office of the Attorney General associated with consulting with the University of Maine System on the evaluation are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.