

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - F I F T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 958

H. P. 1367

House of Representatives, February 27, 1951.

Referred to the Committee on Judiciary, sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Jacobs of Auburn.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-ONE

AN ACT Creating the Youth Service Commission.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 136, §§ 27-A - 27-F, additional. Chapter 136 of the revised statutes, as amended, is hereby further amended by adding thereto 6 new sections, to be numbered 27-A to 27-F, inclusive, to read as follows:

'Youth Service Commission

Sec. 27-A. Declaration of purposes. The purposes of this commission are to serve all the youth of this state more effectively and to reduce and prevent delinquency; first, by coordinated planning to assist local communities in promoting effective programs in education, religion, health, recreation and welfare for the maximum development of all youth; to foster the development and strengthening of programs for the control of influences detrimental to youth, and to cooperate with departments of federal, state and local governments in the development and prosecution of programs to serve youth; and, secondly, by bringing together the activities of sentencing, training in custody or in the community under supervision, conditional release and final discharge into a single, continuous process directed toward the correction, rehabilitation and successful reestablishment in society of delinquent children and youthful offenders.

Sec. 27-B. Commission; appointment, terms. There shall be a commission to be known as the "Youth Service Commission," to provide a program looking toward the prevention of delinquency and crime and to provide corrective treatment for delinquent children and young offenders. The commission shall consist of 3 members to be appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the council. One of the members shall be the chairman and the full-time director of the commission and shall be responsible for the administration and enforcement, of sections 27-A to 27-F, inclusive, under direction of the commission. All the members shall be selected on the basis of their recognized interest in and knowledge of correction and prevention of delinquency and of service to youth; and the chairman shall be a skilled executive officer. The term of office of the members of the commission shall be 5 years, except that initially 1 shall be appointed for a 5-year term, one for a 3-year term and the 3rd for a 1-year term. Members shall be eligible for reappointment. If a vacancy occurs, a member shall be appointed to serve for the unexpired term and the governor may, with the consent of the council, remove any member for just cause.

Sec. 27-C. Compensation; duties. The members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for the necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. The commission shall help to focus public attention on the needs of youth in this state. It may advise and make recommendations to appropriate departments or agencies of the government on any matter affecting the behavior, care or welfare of children or youths; it shall interpret the work of the commission to the public and enlist public cooperation therein. The commission shall hold meetings at the call of its chairman or of the "Youth Service Commission," but it shall hold not less than 6 meetings annually. Before the convening date of each regular session of the legislature the commission shall make a report to the governor and legislature of its activities and accomplishments. The report may include specific recommendations for legislation, planned and drafted as a part of an integrated, unified and consistent program to serve the best interest of youth; and recommendations for the repeal of any conflicting, obsolete or undesirable legislation affecting youth.

Sec. 27-D. Powers and duties of commission. The powers and duties of the commission shall be: To develop constructive programs to reduce and prevent delinquency and crime among youth, and to that end it shall cooperate with existing agencies and encourage the establishment of new agencies, both local and state-wide, having as their object the control of delinquency and crime; and the commission shall assist local agencies and the authorities of any municipality, when so requested by the governing

body thereof, in strengthening and coordinating educational, welfare, health and recreational programs which have as their object service to youth.

Sec. 27-E. Organization and personnel. The powers and duties of the commission in respect to classification, placement for training and treatment, transfer, parole and discharge of persons committed to the commission shall be exercised and performed by a majority of the members of the commission and shall not be delegated to, nor exercised or performed by, any individual member. All other powers, duties and functions granted to or imposed upon the commission by any provision of law may be exercised and performed by any member or any subordinate designated or assigned by the chairman. In addition to any employees transferred to it, the commission may employ, within the limits of the amount appropriated therefor, such medical, psychiatric, psychological and other expert personnel, field representatives, supervisory, institutional, clerical and other employees as are necessary to discharge its duties.

Sec. 27-F. Collection of statistics. The commission may collect statistics and information regarding juvenile delinquency, crimes reported and discovered, arrests made, complaints, informations and indictments, acquittals, probations granted or denied, commitments to and transfers and discharges from places of incarceration and other data and information useful in determining the cause and amount of crime in this state or in carrying out the powers and duties of the commission. All officers and employees of the state and of every county and municipality shall furnish to the commission upon request such statistics and other information within their knowledge and control as the commission deems necessary or proper to be collected pursuant to the provisions of this section.'

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is hereby appropriated from the general fund the sum of \$10,000 to carry out the provisions of this act. Any unexpended balances shall not lapse, but shall remain a continuing carrying account.