

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NINETY - SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1044

S. P. 380

In Senate, February 24, 1953

Referred to the Committee on Towns and Counties, sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

Presented by Senator Collins of Aroostook

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-THREE

AN ACT Relating to Employment of Prisoners in County Jails.

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

R. S., c. 79, § 20, amended. Section 20 of chapter 79 of the revised statutes, as revised, is hereby amended to read as follows:

‘Sec. 20. Able-bodied male prisoners may be put to work. County commissioners may ~~authorize~~ **require** the keepers of jails to put able-bodied male prisoners to work on the building or repairing of highways, **or many enter into agreements with towns for their employment upon town work, maintenance of public parks, building, maintaining and cleaning of streets, sidewalks and sewers, shoveling of snow, nad crushing of stone** within their county. ~~They~~ **The county commissioners** shall make rules and regulations and appoint overseers and keepers needful for the direction and safekeeping of prisoners so employed, and such overseers and keepers shall have all authority conferred by law on masters of houses of correction and shall be responsible for the safekeeping and return to jail of all prisoners in their custody, and shall be subject to the provisions of section 211. No prisoner shall be so employed who has been exempted therefrom by the magistrate imposing sentence, or if in the judgment of a physician expressed by a certificate he is unfit for such labor. The county commissioners shall supply

all prisoners with all necessary and suitable clothing of such description as will not materially distinguish them from other workmen; they shall also furnish said prisoners with the required tools and implements and may employ such other labor and purchase such other material and equipment as may be necessary to properly carry out the objects of this section, and shall keep account of all expenses incident to such employment. ~~Section 25 does not apply to this section and the 3 following sections~~ The county commissioners may require the employment of prisoners for the benefit of the county or for dependent families of the prisoners and may pay the proceeds of such labor, less a reasonable sum for the cost of maintenance, to such families. In the event of such employment the county commissioners shall set the wage scale and may, at the termination of the jail sentence of any such prisoner, pay to him a sum of money not to exceed 20% of his total earnings while employed under the provisions of this section.'