

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 2, 2020 to March 30, 2021

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
April 28, 2021 to July 19, 2021

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
JUNE 29, 2021

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
OCTOBER 18, 2021

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2021

§1606. Prisoner voluntary participation in public works projects and in work projects within the jails

1. Participation Voluntary participation in public works projects authorized. The sheriff in charge of a county jail, or the sheriff of a county that shares a regional jail with other counties, may permit certain inmates of that jail, who have been sentenced, to voluntarily participate in public works-related projects or in the improvement of property owned by charitable organizations in that county or another county. A project or improvement must be supervised by the sheriff of the county in which the project or improvement is being conducted. The sheriff may request payment from charitable organizations for the transportation of the prisoners and for the transportation and per diem compensation for any guards corrections officers who accompany the prisoners. For the purposes of this section, "charitable organization" means any nonprofit organization organized or incorporated in this State or having a principal place of business in this State that is exempt from federal income taxation under the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, Section 501(a), because the nonprofit organization is described in the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, Section 501(c)(3).

1-B. Voluntary participation in work projects within the jails. The sheriff in charge of a county jail, or the sheriff of a county that shares a regional jail with other counties, may permit certain inmates of that jail who are detained at the jail pretrial or presentence to voluntarily participate in work projects within the jail and on jail property when under supervision and as approved by the sheriff.

2. Sentence prorated. Inmates participating in a public works-related project or an improvement of property owned by a charitable organization under ~~this section~~ subsection 1 may have their sentences to the jail prorated at the rate of up to one day removed from the sentences for every 16 hours of participation in the project, except that inmates committed to the custody of the sheriff for nonpayment of fines under Title 17-A, section 1711 must have their sentences prorated at the rate that is applicable to the individual inmate pursuant to Title 17-A, section 1711, subsection 4, paragraph A, subparagraph (1).

3. Participation not deemed employment. ~~Participation in this type of~~ Voluntary participation in a work project under subsection 1 or 1-B may not be deemed employment under section 1605, subsections 3 to 8.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 170
S.P. 198 - L.D. 491**

An Act To Give Special Weight to Discriminatory Motive in Sentencing for False Public Alarm or Report

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

Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §1501, sub-§8, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. A, §2, is amended to read:

8. Permit sentences based on factors of crime committed. Permit sentences that do not diminish the gravity of offenses, with reference to the factors, among others, of:

A. The age of the victim, particularly of a victim of an advanced age or of a young age who has a reduced ability to self-protect or who suffers more significant harm due to age; ~~and~~

B. The selection by the person of the victim or of the property that was damaged or otherwise affected by the crime because of the race, color, religion, sex, ancestry, national origin, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation or homelessness of the victim or of the owner or occupant of that property; and

C. The discriminatory motive of the person in making a false public alarm or report in violation of section 509, subsection 1; and

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 171
S.P. 204 - L.D. 521**

An Act To Modify the Rule-making Process for Establishing County and Municipal Jail Standards

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

Sec. 1. 34-A MRSA §1208, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 581, §§10 and 59, is amended to read:

1. Establishment. The commissioner shall establish both mandatory and desirable standards for all county and municipal detention facilities, setting forth requirements for maintaining safe, healthful and secure facilities. Standards adopted pursuant to this subsection must be evidence-based, must take into consideration cost impact and must reflect best practices for the operation and administration of jails.