

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE

REPORT

TO

ONE-HUNDRETH LEGISLATURE



STUDY OF THE NEED FOR A  
THIRD CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

JANUARY 1961

STATE OF MAINE

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In Senate January 28, 1960

ORDERED, the House concurring, that there be created an interim joint committee to consist of 2 Senators and 3 Representatives, appointed respectively by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, to study and report to the 100th Legislature on the need for an institution in the State of Maine for the housing and treatment of all offenders committed to the State Prison or correctional state institutions who are sex offenders or are suffering from other mental or personality disorders; and be it further

ORDERED, that the members of the committee serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for their expenses incurred in the performance of their duties under this order; and be it further

ORDERED, that there is appropriated to the committee from the legislative appropriation the sum of \$1,000 to carry out the purposes of this order.

Name: (Pierce) /s/ Frank M. Pierce

County: Hancock

(S.P. #548 Order)  
(Relative to #2510-60)

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Pursuant to this order, the Committee presents the following study and report:

On the basis of inmate population statistics provided the Committee by the Department of Mental Health and Corrections the Committee recognizes that there is a present and urgent need for additional housing facilities at both the Maine State Prison and the State Reformatory for Men. A projection of recent inmate population trends gives the Committee every reason to believe that the present crowded conditions at these institutions will be aggravated rather than diminished in the immediate as well as in the more distant future.

An inspection of both Institutions by the Committee leads its members to recognize the fact that to add new rooms or cells to the existing facilities would not be advisable. In each Institution, not only is the crowding apparent in respect to inmate housing but in all areas of operation; and to simply add rooms or cells would aggravate rather than ease the total problem of overcrowding.

A combination of these two factors; the need for additional housing facilities and the fact that such additional units should not be added to the existing Institutions clearly leads the Committee to recognize the need for another, or third, correctional institution in the State of Maine.

After exploring all possible purposes this new Institution might serve in addition to those indicated in the Legislative Order, the Committee recommends that it be designed and constructed so that it not only will relieve the overcrowding in existing institutions but provide services not heretofore available.

The Committee, therefore, recommends that the new Institution serve as a Reception, Diagnostic and Classification Center to which all adult male felon convicts are admitted when sentenced to serve a term in a State Correctional Institution. The responsibility of this Center is to diagnose the needs of each convict to classify him and place him in the Institution best suited to his needs and those of society.

The Committee further recommends that the new Institution serve as a Special Treatment Center for those persons in the adult felon convict population in need of segregation from the general prison population and treatment of a kind not available in the other correctional units in the state correctional system.

The Committee recommends the combination of these two services in one unit as a matter of natural relationship between the functions and as a matter of economy. Professional personnel concerned with diagnosis and classification of convict populations is also concerned with the treatment services made available to such populations, so the concentration of such personnel is advisable.

Neither program - Reception, Diagnosis and Classification nor Special Treatment - involves enough persons to justify the construction of a separate unit or institution, while both programs combined involve, in the mind of the Committee, a sufficient number to justify the construction of an institution, i.e., a 250-bed institution.

Present estimates of need reveal that intake traffic in a Reception Center, in which the prisoner is held from two (2) to three (3) months before transfer to another facility, should be of sufficient size to house 100 persons under maximum security conditions in the reception, diagnostic and classification section of the new institution.

The Special Treatment section of the new institution should be designed to house 150 persons who will be assigned thereto by classification in terms of their needs in respect to the treatment program being carried on in the unit.

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We of the Committee recommend that appropriate legislation be prepared to implement the hereinbefore set forth recommendations of the Committee and that such legislation be presented for the consideration of the 100th Legislature.

Senator Frank M. Pierce, Chairman  
Senator Carl M. Stilphen  
Representative John L. Knight  
Representative Ronald L. Kellam  
Representative William G. Earles