

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 732 was enacted as an emergency measure on May 5, 2022.

LD 1721 An Act Regarding Dignity for Women in Correctional Facilities

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 620 does the following.

1. It amends an existing legislative reporting requirement by the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services regarding the status of children in the department's custody to include in that report information on the number of children in the department's custody known to have one or more incarcerated parents and information on the number of those children for whom the case goal is reunification.
2. It adds to the board of visitors of each county jail a person with knowledge related to the incarceration of women and a woman who has been incarcerated in the State and who has had prior child welfare experience with the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services.
3. It establishes a board of visitors for women's services to serve with regard to women who are incarcerated in Department of Corrections correctional and detention facilities and requires the Commissioner of Corrections to establish a separate grievance process for complaints regarding compliance with standards for county and municipal detention facilities, jails and other detention housing.
4. It prohibits a correctional or detention facility from billing an indigent client for future payment of services and medications.
5. It adds to the rights of a person who is incarcerated in the custody of the Department of Corrections opportunities and conditions for visitations with the child of the person and specifies the conditions under which such visits are not allowed.
6. It requires the Department of Corrections to report annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters on the number of juveniles in the custody of the department as juvenile detainees or juvenile clients or under department supervision on probation whose parents or primary caregivers are known to the department to be in the custody of the department or under the supervision of the department.

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7. It requires a correctional facility or detention facility housing female clients to ensure to the greatest extent practicable the presence of a female corrections officer during the transportation of a female client to and from a medical appointment and to ensure that the client is afforded the greatest amount of privacy practicable during the appointment consistent with safety and security considerations. It also adds a corresponding provision applicable to county jails housing female prisoners.
8. It requires the Department of Corrections to provide any person residing in a correctional or detention facility in the State at no cost to the person with the contact information for the Office of Child and Family Services and information on the relevance of that contact to the family reunification process.
9. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services to evaluate options for obtaining publicly available information regarding persons incarcerated at county jail facilities and, by January 31, 2024, submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters regarding its progress in obtaining that information and any findings or recommendations based on the information. After reviewing the report, the joint standing committee may report out legislation related to the report to the 131st Legislature in 2024.

LD 1797 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Maine Length of Service Award Program

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 556 expands the Maine Length of Service Award Program to apply to eligible volunteers and defines eligible volunteer as a bona fide volunteer performing qualified services in a fire department, ambulance service or non-transporting emergency medical service if that volunteer is an active part-time or on-call member of a fire department, a volunteer firefighter, an emergency medical services person or a qualified licensed emergency medical services ambulance operator. It expands the Maine Length of Service Award Program Board of Trustees to include two licensed emergency medical services persons.

LD 1803 An Act to Attract and Retain Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services Personnel through the Maine Length of Service Award Program

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 721 appropriates from the General Fund to the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission \$500,000 in fiscal year 2022-23 to provide one-time funding for the Maine Length of Service Award Program to provide awards to eligible volunteer firefighters and emergency medical services personnel.