



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 45

H.P. 9

House of Representatives, January 8, 2025

**An Act Allowing the Department of Corrections to Offset Some of
the Costs of Technology Provided to Residents of Correctional
Facilities**

Submitted by the Department of Corrections pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Received by the Clerk of the House on January 6, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R(t) B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative LEE of Auburn.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 34-A MRSA §1220** is enacted to read:

3 **§1220. Resident Technology Fund**

4 The Resident Technology Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established
5 in the department as a nonlapsing fund for the purpose of offsetting the cost of technology
6 provided to residents of correctional facilities.

7 **1. Funds.** All funds collected from any fees established by the commissioner pursuant
8 to section 1403, subsection 14 must be deposited into the fund. The department may accept
9 money for deposit into the fund from other sources.

10 **2. Use.** The fund may be used by the department to offset the cost of buying and
11 maintaining technology provided to residents of correctional facilities.

12 **Sec. 2. 34-A MRSA §1403, sub-§14** is enacted to read:

13 **14. Technology fee.** The commissioner may establish a reasonable fee for the use of
14 technology, including, but not limited to, computers, laptop computers and external storage
15 devices, that is provided to residents of correctional facilities in connection with
16 educational or vocational programs, remote work or other purposes. The commissioner
17 may not charge a fee for:

18 A. Technology that is provided to a resident for the purpose of research related to a
19 criminal case or civil lawsuit in which the resident is involved; or

20 B. Technology that is provided to a resident who is indigent or would not be able to
21 participate in the activity for which the technology is provided unless the fee is waived.

22 A correctional facility shall collect any fees received under this subsection and deposit them
23 into the Resident Technology Fund established in section 1220.

24 **SUMMARY**

25 This bill allows the Commissioner of Corrections to establish a fee for the use of
26 technology by residents of correctional facilities, subject to exceptions as provided in the
27 bill. Any technology fees collected must be deposited into the Resident Technology Fund,
28 a nonlapsing fund established by the bill within the Department of Corrections. Funds may
29 be used to offset the cost of buying and maintaining technology provided to residents of
30 correctional facilities.