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Date: (Filing No. H-)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
132ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1284, L.D. 1923, “An Act to Repurpose Long Creek Youth Development Center and Build a Community System of Support”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Update Juvenile Justice System Reporting Requirements and to Direct the Department of Corrections and the Department of Health and Human Services to Study Modifying the Long Creek Youth Development Center'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 34-A MRSA §7009, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 425, §4, is amended to read:

§7009. Publication of data

~~By February 15, 2024~~ Beginning August 15, 2026, ~~each month~~ the department shall develop and publish on its publicly accessible website data regarding the number of juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system. The data must be updated monthly and include information regarding the numbers of juveniles referred, diverted, detained, placed on probation, ordered to serve a period of confinement and committed to the department. The department shall deidentify the data and remove any potential personal identifying information of the juveniles. The data must be organized by region of the State and broken down by age, gender and race.

Sec. 2. Department of Corrections and Department of Health and Human Services to convene working group. The Department of Corrections and the Department of Health and Human Services shall jointly convene a working group to examine the current programming and use of physical facilities at the Long Creek Youth Development Center, referred to in this section as "the center." The working group shall provide recommendations for modifying the use of land and facilities at the center and reinvesting corrections funds currently designated for youth incarceration into a continuum of community-based services over the next 5 years.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 1. The Commissioner of Corrections and the Commissioner of Health and Human
2 Services, or the commissioners' designees, shall serve as members of the working group
3 and shall jointly appoint the following 9 members to the working group:

4 A. A representative of children's behavioral health services within the Department of
5 Health and Human Services;

6 B. A representative of the Department of Education;

7 C. A representative of a community-based youth service provider;

8 D. A representative from a community-based organization offering youth shelter or
9 housing resources;

10 E. A representative of the State Forensic Service with experience in juvenile justice
11 matters in the State;

12 F. An expert in juvenile justice matters in the State;

13 G. A youth who has directly experienced the juvenile justice system in the State;

14 H. A parent of a youth who has directly experienced the juvenile justice system in the
15 State; and

16 I. A representative of a statewide labor organization representing employees at the
17 center.

18 The superintendent of the center or the superintendent's designee serves as an ex officio,
19 voting member of the working group.

20 2. The working group shall:

21 A. Study efforts of other states and municipalities in other states that have modified
22 their juvenile detention centers to determine the best practices for modifying the center;

23 B. Examine the current status of the land and facilities at the center to determine
24 opportunities for modifying the land and facilities, including renovating existing
25 buildings or constructing additional facilities;

26 C. Consider alternate uses for the land and facilities at the center, including but not
27 limited to a crisis receiving center, an assessment of youth in crisis center, a youth
28 emergency shelter, youth transitional housing and a community resource center;

29 D. Examine the current use of the center's budget and staffing and explore
30 opportunities for alternative uses of financial and human resources for services,
31 including, but not limited to, housing, behavioral health, education, substance use
32 disorder prevention and treatment, wraparound case management and diversion;

33 E. Explore existing community-based services provided to youth and work with
34 community-based organizations to determine potential programming that could take
35 place at the center; and

36 F. Examine and recommend best practices for maintaining and operating a secure and
37 safe facility for juvenile clients.

38 3. No later than February 15, 2028, the Commissioner of Corrections and the
39 Commissioner of Health and Human Services shall jointly submit a report to the joint
40 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public

1 safety matters that includes the working group's findings and recommendations, including
2 any proposed legislation related to the working group's duties. The joint standing
3 committee may report out legislation based on the report to the Second Regular Session of
4 the 133rd Legislature.'

5 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
6 number to read consecutively.

7 **SUMMARY**

8 This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, replaces the bill and
9 changes the title. The amendment directs the Department of Corrections and the
10 Department of Health and Human Services to jointly convene a working group to examine
11 the current programming and use of physical facilities at the Long Creek Youth
12 Development Center. The working group must provide recommendations for modifying
13 the use of land and facilities at the center and reinvesting corrections funds currently
14 designated for youth incarceration into a continuum of community-based services over the
15 next 5 years. The working group is required to submit a report to the joint standing
16 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety
17 matters that includes the working group's findings and recommendations, including any
18 proposed legislation related to the working group's duties. The joint standing committee
19 may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature. The
20 amendment also requires the Department of Corrections to update juvenile justice data on
21 its publicly accessible website monthly starting August 15, 2026.

22 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

23 **(See attached)**