

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX

H.P. 1507 - L.D. 2232

An Act to Increase County Jail Funding

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, state funding for county jail operations has remained stagnant while the costs to operate county jails have rapidly increased, creating an undue burden on property tax payers; and

Whereas, it is necessary that this Act take effect prior to the beginning of the next fiscal year; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. Credit of funds for county jails for jail operations costs. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1532, in fiscal year 2025-26, prior to the credit of any investment earnings on the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund, the State Controller shall first credit \$4,000,000 of investment earnings to the County Jail Operations Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds account in the Department of Corrections for distributions to counties for jail operations costs.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

CORRECTIONS, DEPARTMENT OF

County Jail Operations Fund Z227

Initiative: Provides a one-time allocation to the County Jail Operations Fund for distribution to counties for jail operations costs.

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| All Other | \$4,000,000 | \$0 |

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL \$4,000,000 \$0

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.