



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 626

H.P. 394

House of Representatives, February 25, 2025

**An Act to Explicitly Allow the Department of Corrections to Charge
Room and Board to Residents Who Perform Remote Work in
Detention and Correctional Facilities and to Amend the Laws
Governing Rehabilitative Programs**

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

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 20, 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 "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative NUTTING of Oakland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 34-A MRSA §3035, first ¶**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. C, §88, is
3 further amended to read:

4 The commissioner may adopt, implement and establish rules for rehabilitative
5 programs, including, but not limited to, work release, education release, remote work,
6 furlough and, public service release and programs resulting in the payment of restitution,
7 as authorized described by Title 17-A, ~~chapter 69~~ section 2016, within for residents of the
8 facilities under the commissioner's control.

9 **Sec. 2. 34-A MRSA §3035, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 80, §7, is further
10 amended to read:

11 **1. ~~Work release and restitution, education release, remote work and public~~**
12 **service release.** The chief administrative officer may permit any client resident under
13 sentence to the department and any juvenile client residing at a facility under the
14 commissioner's control considered to be worthy of trust to participate in activities outside
15 the facility, including, but not limited to, work release, education release and public service
16 release, or remote work activities within the facility under the following conditions.

17 A. Activities may include training and employment.

18 B. Activities are subject to rules ~~promulgated~~ adopted by the commissioner.

19 C. Activities must, in the judgment of the chief administrative officer, contribute to
20 the reformation of the client resident and assist in preparing the client resident for
21 eventual release.

22 D. Transportation to ~~work release job sites~~ in the community must be approved by the
23 chief administrative officer.

24 (1) ~~Clients Residents~~ Residents participating in the work release program may be assessed
25 an equitable share of the cost of the transportation.

26 (2) Funds received from ~~clients residents~~ residents for work release transportation must be
27 placed in the General Fund.

28 E. Every client resident participating in the work release program or in remote work
29 activities is liable for the cost of room and board in the facility.

30 (1) The reasonable cost of room and board for a client resident in a facility is fixed
31 by the commissioner. In fixing the reasonable cost of the room and board to be
32 paid, the commissioner shall take into consideration other state laws or judicial
33 determinations that affect the client's resident's income.

34 (2) Funds received from ~~clients residents~~ residents for the room and board must be placed
35 in the General Fund.

36 **SUMMARY**

37 This bill explicitly allows the Commissioner of Corrections to charge room and board
38 to residents who perform remote work in a facility under the commissioner's control and
39 amends the laws governing rehabilitative programs to add references to education release,
40 public service release and remote work.