

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

H.P. 1245 - L.D. 1674

**An Act To Improve Access to Medical Care for and Expand the Rights of
Adult Clients of State Correctional Facilities**

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

Sec. 1. 34-A MRSA §3014 is enacted to read:

§3014. Input into health care services

1. Input from clients. The chief administrative officer of each correctional facility housing adult clients shall seek input from the clients of that facility on at least a quarterly basis relating to the adequacy of the medical and mental health services being provided and suggestions for the development, expansion and improvement of those services.

2. Diversity of clients providing input. The chief administrative officer of each correctional facility shall solicit input pursuant to subsection 1 from adult clients who are representative of the diversity of adult clients housed by the facility, including diversity with respect to race, ethnicity, age and gender, as well as security classification level.

3. Documentation of input. The chief administrative officer of each correctional facility shall document input under this section from the facility's clients in the facility's yearly reports.

Sec. 2. 34-A MRSA §3031, sub-§2, ¶A-1 is enacted to read:

A-1. A client who is indigent is exempt from fees charged for requesting or obtaining records of medical, dental or mental health care provided to the client pursuant to this subsection.

Sec. 3. 34-A MRSA §3031, sub-§2, ¶B, as amended by PL 2015, c. 291, §5, is further amended to read:

B. Notwithstanding ~~paragraph~~ paragraphs A and A-1, the State may bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction to recover the cost of medical, dental, psychiatric or psychological expenses incurred by the State on behalf of a client incarcerated in a facility. The following assets are not subject to judgment under this paragraph:

- (1) Joint ownership, if any, that the client may have in real property;

(2) Joint ownership, if any, that the client may have in any assets, earnings or other sources of income; and

(3) The income, assets, earnings or other property, both real and personal, owned by the client's spouse or family;

Sec. 4. Policies on property searches, strip searches and body cavity searches. The Commissioner of Corrections shall adopt policies distinguishing between searches of a client's physical property and cell or living space and searches of a client's person, including strip searches and body cavity searches, and establishing processes for conducting strip searches and body cavity searches. The policies must establish processes for conducting strip searches and body cavity searches in a trauma-informed and gender-responsive manner.