

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

H.P. 394 - L.D. 626

**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**

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

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

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

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

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

- A. Activities may include training and employment.
- B. Activities are subject to rules ~~promulgated~~ adopted by the commissioner.
- C. Activities must, in the judgment of the chief administrative officer, contribute to the reformation of the ~~client~~ resident and assist in preparing the ~~client~~ resident for eventual release.
- D. Transportation to ~~work release job sites~~ in the community must be approved by the chief administrative officer.

(1) ~~Clients~~ Residents participating in the work release program may be assessed an equitable share of the cost of the transportation, not to exceed 10% of a resident's work release earnings.

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

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

(1) The reasonable cost of room and board for a ~~client~~ resident in a facility is fixed by the commissioner. In fixing the reasonable cost of the room and board to be paid, the commissioner shall take into consideration other state laws or judicial determinations that affect the ~~client's~~ resident's income. The cost of room and board may not exceed 10% of the resident's work release or remote work earnings.

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