

STATE OF MAINE

—  
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

—  
H.P. 303 - L.D. 419

**An Act Regarding Voluntary Participation in Work Projects by Inmates  
Who Are Pretrial, Presentence and Sentenced**

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

**Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §1606**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. C, §80, is further amended to read:

**§1606. Prisoner voluntary participation in public works projects and in work projects within the jails**

**1. ~~Participation~~ Voluntary participation in public works projects authorized.** The sheriff in charge of a county jail, or the sheriff of a county that shares a regional jail with other counties, may permit certain inmates of that jail, who have been sentenced, to voluntarily participate in public works-related projects or in the improvement of property owned by charitable organizations in that county or another county. A project or improvement must be supervised by the sheriff of the county in which the project or improvement is being conducted. The sheriff may request payment from charitable organizations for the transportation of the prisoners and for the transportation and per diem compensation for any ~~guards~~ corrections officers who accompany the prisoners. For the purposes of this section, "charitable organization" means any nonprofit organization organized or incorporated in this State or having a principal place of business in this State that is exempt from federal income taxation under the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, Section 501(a), because the nonprofit organization is described in the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, Section 501(c)(3).

**1-B. Voluntary participation in work projects within the jails.** The sheriff in charge of a county jail, or the sheriff of a county that shares a regional jail with other counties, may permit certain inmates of that jail who are detained at the jail pretrial or presentence to voluntarily participate in work projects within the jail and on jail property when under supervision and as approved by the sheriff.

**2. Sentence prorated.** Inmates participating in a public works-related project or an improvement of property owned by a charitable organization under ~~this section~~ subsection 1 may have their sentences to the jail prorated at the rate of up to one day removed from the sentences for every 16 hours of participation in the project, except that inmates

committed to the custody of the sheriff for nonpayment of fines under Title 17-A, section 1711 must have their sentences prorated at the rate that is applicable to the individual inmate pursuant to Title 17-A, section 1711, subsection 4, paragraph A, subparagraph (1).

**3. Participation not deemed employment.** ~~Participation in this type of~~ Voluntary participation in a work project under subsection 1 or 1-B may not be deemed employment under section 1605, subsections 3 to 8.