

Maine PRISONER ADVOCACY Coalition



May 5, 2025

Senator Beebe Center, Representative Hasenfus, and honorable members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee:

My name is Jan Collins, I am Assistant Director of Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition (MPAC) an organization committed to ethical, positive, and humane changes in Maine's prison system.

I have some questions about the fiscal note attached to LD 648 An Act to Expand the Supervised Community Confinement Program.

I understand that it is not the responsibility of the MDOC to add into their analysis the benefits of having fewer people in the prison system to supervise or the ability of people released under SCCP to contribute to the economy, their families needs, and state taxes, but I have serious doubts about the estimated cost of \$1.2 million dollars.

1. The MDOC estimates only 43 people would be eligible to apply.
2. Using the data available from the current SCCP program, only 7% of those who apply are approved. $43 \times 7\% = 3$ people.
3. SCCP policy allows the Maine Department of Corrections to deny a petition for SCCP for any reason or no reason. They do not need to provide a reason for denial, nor they allowed to release the criteria used to arrive at their decision.
4. There are some of the rules governing SCCP appearing in the MDOC policy. They⁶ include the provision that no one can get SCCP if it would put the probation case load average over 90 individuals. Since that policy is in place preventing the hiring of additional probation personnel and preventing the release of SCCP individuals over the 90 ave threshold, it is difficult to understand the need for additional funds of any amount.

Procedure A: Supervised Community Confinement Program, General

...

A. 4. *The Regional Correctional Administrator, or designee, of each adult community corrections region shall be responsible for the day-to-day*

management of SCCP and probation officers shall be responsible for the supervision of clients while on supervised community confinement...

6. *An eligible resident shall not be denied approval for SCCP solely because of the type of crime they committed or solely because of objections received from the community. However, **legitimate safety concerns expressed by a victim or others may be the basis of a denial.** In addition, the circumstances of the crime, close proximity to a victim, or objections from the community, may be the basis of modifications to the resident's SCCP Plan or of additional conditions in order to enhance the likelihood of their successfully completing the program if transferred.*

7. Specific information about input from prosecutors, law enforcement, victims, other persons in the community, and the Office of Victim Services **shall not be disclosed to the resident under any circumstances.**

Procedure B: Eligibility

...

5. Additionally to be eligible for transfer to supervised community confinement:

...

b. if the Commissioner, or designee, determines that the average statewide case load is no more than ninety (90) adult community corrections clients to one probation officer...

...

9. On a quarterly basis, the Director of Adult Community Corrections shall review the number of adult community corrections clients on the case loads of probation officers in order to **determine the average statewide case load and shall notify the Regional Correctional Administrators and the Department's Director of Classification, or their designees, whether it is no more than ninety (90) clients to one probation officer.** The Department's Director of Classification, or designee, shall then notify the Chief Administrative Officers, or their designees, and the Central Office Manager of Evidence Based Practices (for the adult facilities) and the Central Office Manager of Evidence Based Practices (for adult community corrections). The Central Office Managers of Evidence Based Practices shall notify the facility Community Programs Coordinators, or other designated staff, and facility case managers.

Thank-you for your consideration.

Jan

Jan M. Collins

Assistant Director Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition

PO Box 360, E. Wilton, ME 04234

207.578.8419