



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1514

H.P. 969

House of Representatives, April 5, 2023

An Act to Provide Safe, Short-term Housing to Individuals Recently Released from Correctional Facilities

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin and
Representatives: BOYER of Poland, FOSTER of Dexter, GERE of Kennebunkport,
SALISBURY of Westbrook, Senators: BEEBE-CENTER of Knox, PIERCE of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 34-A MRSA §3053** is enacted to read:

3 **§3053. Transitional housing program and fund**

4 **1. Transitional housing.** The department, in collaboration with the Maine State
5 Housing Authority, shall administer a program to provide transitional housing to an
6 indigent client for the first 2 months after the client's release from a correctional facility.
7 Criteria for housing under this section include that:

8 A. The housing is maintained in a safe, sanitary manner and meets all state and local
9 building codes under Title 10, chapter 1103 and fire and life safety codes under Title
10 25, section 2452 for the type of building in which the transitional housing is located;

11 B. The former client has a bed, adequate bedroom and living space and the housing has
12 private toilet and bathing facilities and adequate dining and kitchen facilities for the
13 number of residents in the unit or building; and

14 C. Adequate provisions have been made for a former client convicted of a sex offense
15 under Title 17-A, chapters 11 and 12 and to meet all requirements and restrictions for
16 sex offenders under Title 34-A, chapters 15 and 17.

17 **2. Transitional housing fund.** The transitional housing fund, referred to in this
18 subsection as "the fund," administered by the department, is established. The purpose of
19 the fund is to support transitional housing for recently released clients of a correctional
20 facility under subsection 1. The fund receives money from appropriations, allocations,
21 donations, grants and other public and private funding sources. The department may invest
22 money in the fund, and interest earned by the fund is credited to the fund. The fund may
23 not lapse but must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

24 **Sec. 2. Maine State Housing Authority to study long-term solutions for**
25 **transitional housing for recently released indigent clients of the Department of**
26 **Corrections.** The Maine State Housing Authority, in collaboration with the Department
27 of Corrections, shall study long-term solutions for transitional housing for recently released
28 indigent clients of the Department of Corrections. By December 4, 2024, the Maine State
29 Housing Authority shall submit a report on the conclusions of the study along with any
30 recommended legislation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
31 jurisdiction over labor and housing matters. The joint standing committee may report out
32 legislation based upon the report to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.

33 **SUMMARY**

34 This bill directs the Department of Corrections to administer a program to provide
35 transitional housing to recently released indigent clients of the Department of Corrections
36 and establishes a fund to fund the program. This bill also directs the Maine State Housing
37 Authority to study long-term solutions for transitional housing for recently released
38 indigent clients of the Department of Corrections.