

TESTIMONY OF

**JOSEPH PONTE, COMMISSIONER
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**

IN SUPPORT OF

LR 1046: "An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2014 and June 30, 2015"

before the

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE APPROPRIATIONS & FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
AND
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY**

March 11, 2013

Senator Hill, Representative Rotondo and other distinguished members of the Appropriations & Financial Affairs committee, Senator Gerzofsky, Representative Dion and other distinguished members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety committee, I am Joseph Ponte, Commissioner of the Department of Corrections here to testify in support of the FY14-15 Biennial Budget.

I would like to discuss the language submitted for this biennium, underscoring their importance, and then discuss our Program initiatives.

The Department has submitted five language requests for this biennium. They are as follows:

1. **Transfer of funds; overtime expenses** which can be found in **Part FF**.
2. **Personal services balances authorized to carry; Department of Corrections** which can be found in **Part GG**.
3. **Maine Governmental Facilities Authority; resolution for issuance of securities** which is in **Part HH**.

However the next two we requested are not included and will be in the change package that will be forthcoming. Both of these requests are in the current FY 12-13 budget:

4. **Transfers and adjustments to position count**.
5. **Transfer of funds; food, heating and utility expenses**.

I feel that it is necessary that the Department receive all five requests allowing us the flexibility to manage each program to the best of our ability. All, excluding Part HH, require Financial Orders which will be reviewed by the Budget Office, the Governor and the Appropriations Committee. As we attempt to change how we manage Corrections in the State of Maine, these language requests are key tools enabling us to manage our programs safely and efficiently.

The language is what is allowing us to not ask for any increase in General Fund appropriations for new initiatives. We intend to self-fund increases in technology rates, food, fuel and general operations.

All of our programs are listed in the CJPS document including program descriptions. In the essence of not wasting your valuable time, I will highlight the only new initiatives we have.

Our initiatives as presented in Part A beginning on page CJPS-1. Our Program initiatives are designed to accomplish two primary goals: 1) establish the Southern Maine Women's Reentry Center as its own program; and 2) establish the Bolduc Correctional Facility as its own program. This will allow us to manage these facilities better financially as they will not be imbedded with other programs as they are today.

It is important to know that these program transfers **net to zero** as the Department is funding these new program internally and will NOT require any additional general funds for the Department.

The following initiatives are related to the creation of the Southern Maine Women's Reentry Center.

- ✓ On page **CJPS-2, Ref. #893** - \$411,440 in All Other funding is being moved from the Department's Administrative Program account to the new Southern Maine Women's Reentry Center Program account. These funds were associated with the VOA program when the Women's Center was in Bangor. This funding is necessary for the day-to-day operations of the facility for items such as food, utilities, programming, transportation, and lease payments to York County.
- ✓ On page **CJPS-5, Ref. #882** - \$903,995 in Personal Services funding is being moved from the Adult Community Corrections account representing the 13 positions needed to manage the new Women's facility in Alfred.
- ✓ Page **CJPS-31, Ref. #945** and **Ref. #946** represent the establishment of the new Women's Center Program account equaling the amounts transferred from the Department's Admin and Adult Community Programs.
- ✓ The net value of these transactions, between Programs is zero.

The next group of initiatives are related to the creation of the Bolduc Correctional Facility as a separate and distinct program from the Maine State Prison.

- ✓ On page **CJPS-6, Ref. #942** represents \$4,533,350 in Personal Services and \$916,500 in associated All Other needed for 55 positions to run the Bolduc facility.
- ✓ **Ref. #943** establishes allotment of \$8,340 for Other Special Revenue previously associated with the Prison.
- ✓ The funding source of these transactions can be found on page **CJPS-34, Ref. #899** and **Ref. #900** from the Maine State Prison Program account.
- ✓ The net value of these transactions, between Programs is zero.

As you may have heard, we are relocating prisoners from the Central Maine Pre-release Center to other facilities within the Department. The Central Maine Pre-release Center Program can be found on page **CJPS-9** as it exists today. Eventually positions and funding from this Program will be transferred to other facilities over this current budget, FY 13.

I would like to re-emphasize the importance of the language request we have asked for. The Department of Corrections has faced many changes over the last two-and-a-half years and we need the budget flexibility to continue to meet the needs of our prisoner population by providing them with the best cost-effective housing, services, treatments, and programming.

The most significant language can be found in part **HH**. This language would authorize the Maine Government Facility Authority to sell \$100 million in bonds to transform the Maine Correctional Center. Our conceptual design is attached. We would re-use three current buildings at the Maine Correctional Center – the women's center and dorms 5 and 6. By replacing the remaining structures with a new, efficient system, we are projecting to **save over \$8 million** annually which would support a 15 or 20 year bond. The savings would start when the construction is complete and occupied which on a project this size, would be 3 to 4 years.

I would be happy to answer any questions either committee has regarding our FY14-15 Biennial Budget – either now or at work session.

State of Maine
Department of Corrections
Joseph Ponte
Commissioner

General Fund	14,501.1
Federal funds	4,140
Other Spec. Rev.	2,428
Prison Industries	1,118
Total	151,704
Leg. Headcount	1,326
Facility Population	2,138

Juvenile Community Corrections (0892)
Joseph Fitzpatrick
Associate Commissioner

General Fund	10,416
Federal funds	590
Other Spec. Rev.	324
Total	11,330
Leg. Headcount	76

Long Creek Youth Development Center (0163)
Jeff Merrill II
Acting Superintendent

General Fund	19,775
Federal funds	162
Other Spec. Rev.	39
Total	13,976
Leg. Headcount	171
Facility Population	104

Mountain View Youth Development Center (0857)
Larry Austin
Acting Superintendent

General Fund	12,650
Federal funds	224
Other Spec. Rev.	52
Total	12,926
Leg. Headcount	155
Facility Population	65

Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (0502)
Kathryn McGloin
JJAG Manager

General Fund	710
Federal funds	789
Total	830
Leg. Headcount	2

Interstate Compact

Adult Community Corrections (0124) & Minimum Security
Cynthia Brann
Associate Commissioner

General Fund	10,327
Federal funds	738
Other Spec. Rev.	292
Total	11,557
Leg. Headcount	120

Charleston Correctional Facility (0400)
Jeff Morin
Director

General Fund	8,277
Other Spec. Rev.	280
Total	4,007
Leg. Headcount	46
Facility Population	146

Baldue Correctional Facility
Ben Beal
Acting Deputy Warden
Budget included with MSP

Central Maine Pre-Release Center (0392)
Chad Curtis
Acting Director

General Fund	1,705
Total	1,705
Leg. Headcount	21
Facility Population	60

Downeast Correctional Facility (0542)
Scott Jones
Director

General Fund	5,433
Federal funds	48
Other Spec. Rev.	97
Total	5,578
Leg. Headcount	68
Facility Population	145

Southern Maine Women's ReEntry Center (0392)
Jennifer Needham
Unit Manager

Training
Classification
Community Development
Treatment Intervention Programs
Adult Interstate Compact
Level 3 Grievances

Program & Legislative Services
Jody Breton
Associate Commissioner

Medical Services (0286)

General Fund	19,179
Federal funds	518
Other Spec. Rev.	12
Total	20,009

Legislative Services
Public & Media
Service Center
Facility Business Managers
Manager Correctional Operations

Service Center
Finance
Human Resources
Information Technology

Victim Services (0046)
Tessa Mosher
Victim Services Coordinator

General Fund	150
Other Spec. Rev.	15
Total	171
Leg. Headcount	2

State Board of Corrections (2087)
Mark Westrum
Chairman

General Fund	2,243
Other Spec. Rev.	766
Total	12,969

Adult Correctional Facilities

Maine State Prison (0144)
Rod Bouffard
Acting Warden

General Fund	2,410
Federal funds	20
Other Spec. Rev.	114
Prison Industries	1,118
Total	33,868
Leg. Headcount	374
Facility Population	960

Maine Correctional Center (0162)
Scott Burnheimer
Superintendent

General Fund	20,634
Federal funds	77
Other Spec. Rev.	619
Total	21,347
Leg. Headcount	249
Facility Population	625

Director of Operations
Ralph Nichols
Division Director

Prisoner Boarding (2086)
(at County Jails)

General Fund	948
Total	948
Jail Boarded	40

Jail Inspections
Investigations
Policy Development
Capital Projects
PREA
ACA
Security & Facility Operations Security Managers

Administration (0141)

General Fund	10,365
Federal funds	972
Other Spec. Rev.	584
Total	12,121
Leg. Headcount	39

Industries
Bob Walden
Director
(all facilities)

Division of Quality Assurance & Professional Practices
Troy Varney
Director

Overtime (0032)

General Fund	1,172
Total	1,172

Parole (0123)

General Fund	0.5
Total	0.5

Capital Construction/Repairs & Improvements (0432)

Federal Funds	0.5
Total	0.5

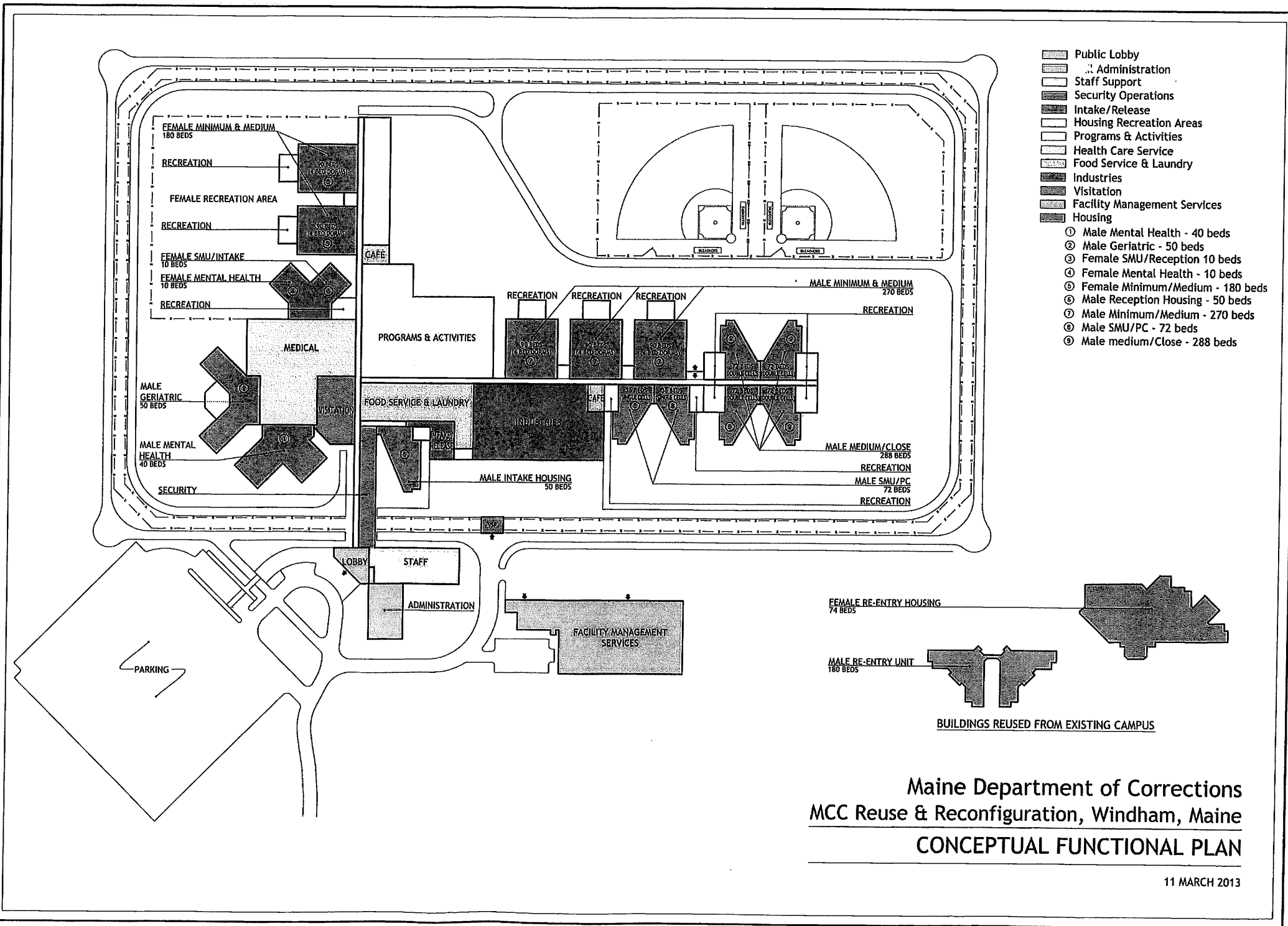
Electronic Monitoring (2138)

Other Spec. Rev.	0.5
Total	0.5

Correctional Impact Reserve (2131)

General Fund	152
Total	152

Financial Data taken from PL Ch 380, June 20, 2011 Biennial Budget
Legislative Headcount Includes General, Federal and Other Special Revenue counts.
Population Counts as of June 30, 2012



Maine Department of Corrections
MCC Reuse & Reconfiguration, Windham, Maine
CONCEPTUAL FUNCTIONAL PLAN

11 MARCH 2013