

FY 2019
GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOUNT (010-29A-0692-01)

Ranked Choice Voting Expenses 11/6/18		
General Courier	30,875	
ES&S Hardware/Software	38,000	
*Referendum Ballot Printing/Postage 11/6/18	268,173	337,048
Special Election ballot Printing/Postage for 3/12/19	9,691	9,691
General Election Printing/Postage 11/6/18	344,858	
Less Budgeted Amt Printing	(296,782)	
ES&S Election Day site Support	4,525	52,601
Additional Election Supplies	2,114	2,114
Total Unbudgeted Expenses	401,454	401,454

*Additional ballot page needed due to RCV

FY19 All Other Budgeted Allotment is \$1,768,097. Of this amount, \$1,082,704 are staged encumbrances for election systems hardware, software and maintenance, municipal equipment rental and UOCAVA ballots leaving \$685,393 for general operations. Unbudgeted increases in OIT charges - \$51,571; and the enactment of Ranked Choice Voting - \$337,048, has left a budget shortfall. YTD expenditures through 2/14/19 are \$1,617,670, leaving a balance of \$255,821. Estimated expenses for the rest of the FY is approximately \$622,819, including \$400,000 to be paid to ES&S.

388,619



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Testimony of Representative Robert Alley in Support of Part D of LR 2406, Concerning the Establishment of a Pre-release Facility in Washington County.

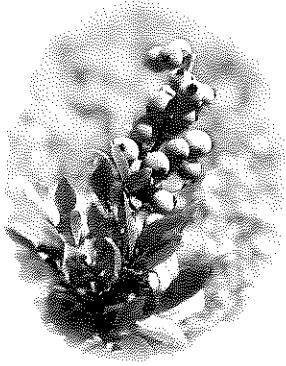
February 21, 2019

Good morning Senator Breen, Representative Gattine and members of the Appropriations Committee. I am Representative Robert Alley, and I represent eleven communities in Washington County. I am here today to speak in support of Part D of this supplemental budget, which call for a pre-release center in Washington County.

Closing the Downeast Correctional Facility was a serious blow to the economy of Washington County. There were the 51 good paying jobs in a region where such jobs are scarce. In addition to economic effect of these job losses, the towns in the greater Machias area got quite a bit of help from the prison in the form of inmate labor for various community service projects. In 2009 alone the crews from Downeast Correctional saved the town of Machias over \$10,000 through their efforts.

Washington County needs this facility. Not just for the jobs and the contributions the inmates made to local towns and businesses, although these are very important, but also for the symbolism of it. When the former governor cruelly closed Downeast in the dead of night with no warning, it was like a hammer blow to Washington County. The economy was already suffering there, and this closure made it seem like we didn't matter at all to the governor. Opening a pre-release center is not just good correctional policy, but it is also an enormous gesture of goodwill to a place that really needs it.

Thank you very much for your consideration.



Wild Blueberry Commission OF MAINE

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**Written Testimony in Support of Governor Mills' Supplemental Budget,
An Act To Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the
Expenditures of State Government and To Change Certain Provisions of Law
Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year
Ending June 30, 2019"
February 21, 2019**

Senator Breen, Representative Gattine, Members of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, I am Kim Cook and I am here to speak on behalf of the Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine and in support of the Governor's Supplemental Budget, in particular Part D that proposes to establish the Washington County Prerelease Center.

The abrupt closure of the Downeast Correctional Facility negatively impacted Machiasport and its neighboring communities, including causing the loss of good paying facility jobs, the loss of income by surrounding businesses, and the loss of available work release participants that otherwise helped fill the void in available seasonal labor. In particular, for some Downeast wild blueberry businesses, the Facility's work release program was the one thing that allowed them to meet peak labor needs during the busy harvest season, typically spanning six weeks between end of July and August.

Reliable temporary help is hard to find during the summer months due to competition from other industries such as lobster fishing, lobster processing, and summer tourism, and the labor pool is further depleted due to demographic challenges and substance use disorder. Work release participants have allowed wild blueberry enterprises to run critical night shifts or double shifts, without which operations would have been halted. In years past, estimates of work release participants during the wild blueberry season have ranged between 10 to 55, and one employer has successfully hired a number of workers upon their release from the facility.

The Wild Blueberry Commission supports the Governor's proposal for a new Washington County Prerelease Center not only for the myriad benefits that it will afford the participants but also the surrounding communities including wild blueberry businesses. Based on the positive track record that the industry has experienced with the work release program, we are hopeful that the new facility will once again allow for important work experiences for participants while providing critical seasonal labor to an industry that perennially faces labor shortages. We encourage the Committee to vote in favor of the Supplement Budget's establishment of the new Washington County Prerelease Center. Thank you.