



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 931

H.P. 596

House of Representatives, March 11, 2025

**An Act to Amend the Law Allowing Incarcerated Pretrial or
Presentence Individuals to Be Credited Time for Participation in
Voluntary Work Projects in a Jail**

Received by the Clerk of the House on March 5, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative O'HALLORAN of Brewer.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BABIN of Fort Fairfield, DILL of Old Town, MCINTYRE of Lowell, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, PUGH of Portland, ROEDER of Bangor, SACHS of Freeport, SINCLAIR of Bath.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §1606, sub-§1**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2021, c. 676,
3 Pt. A, §45, is amended to read:

4 **1. Participation in public works projects authorized.** The sheriff in charge of a
5 county jail, or the sheriff of a county that shares a regional jail with other counties, may
6 permit certain inmates of that jail, who are detained at the jail pretrial or presentence or
7 who have been sentenced, to voluntarily participate in public works-related projects or in
8 the improvement of property owned by charitable organizations in that county or another
9 county and may permit others required to do so pursuant to Title 17-A, section 1902,
10 subsection 1 to participate in such projects or improvement. A project or improvement
11 must be supervised by the sheriff of the county in which the project or improvement is
12 being conducted. The sheriff may request payment from charitable organizations for the
13 transportation of the prisoners and for the transportation and per diem compensation for
14 any corrections officers who accompany the prisoners. For the purposes of this section,
15 "charitable organization" means any nonprofit organization organized or incorporated in
16 this State or having a principal place of business in this State that is exempt from federal
17 income taxation under the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, Section 501(a),
18 because the nonprofit organization is described in the United States Internal Revenue Code
19 of 1986, Section 501(c)(3).

20 **Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §1606, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 169, §1, is further
21 amended to read:

22 **2. Sentence prorated.** Inmates participating in a public works-related project or an
23 improvement of property owned by a charitable organization under subsection 1 may have
24 their sentences to the jail prorated at the rate of up to one day removed from the sentences
25 for every 16 hours of participation in the project, except that inmates committed to the
26 custody of the sheriff for nonpayment of fines under Title 17-A, section 1711 must have
27 their sentences prorated at the rate that is applicable to the individual inmate pursuant to
28 Title 17-A, section 1711, subsection 4, paragraph A, subparagraph (1). The provisions of
29 this subsection apply to an inmate who is detained at a jail pretrial or presentence and who
30 participates in a public works-related project or in the improvement of property owned by
31 a charitable organization if that inmate is sentenced on the charge for which that inmate is
32 detained at the jail.

33 **SUMMARY**

34 This bill allows an inmate who is detained at a county or regional jail pretrial or
35 presentence to voluntarily participate in a public works-related project or in the
36 improvement of property owned by a charitable organization. Such an inmate may have
37 the inmate's sentence to the jail prorated at the rate of up to one day removed from the
38 sentence for every 16 hours of participation in the project if the inmate is sentenced on the
39 charge for which the inmate is detained at the jail.