

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

—
S.P. 34 - L.D. 42

An Act Regarding Training for Corrections Officers

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

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2801-A, sub-§1-B is enacted to read:

1-B. Adult corrections officer. "Adult corrections officer" means a person who is responsible for the custody or direct supervision of a person confined in a county or regional jail or state adult correctional facility pursuant to an order of a court or as a result of an arrest and who possesses a current and valid certificate issued by the board pursuant to section 2803-A, subsection 5.

Sec. 2. 25 MRSA §2801-A, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2013, c. 147, §5, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

2. Corrections officer. "Corrections officer" means an adult corrections officer or juvenile corrections officer.

Sec. 3. 25 MRSA §2801-A, sub-§2-B is enacted to read:

2-B. Juvenile corrections officer. "Juvenile corrections officer" means a person who is responsible for the custody or direct supervision of a person confined in a state juvenile correctional facility pursuant to an order of a court or as a result of an arrest and who possesses a current and valid certificate issued by the board pursuant to section 2803-A, subsection 5-B.

Sec. 4. 25 MRSA §2803-A, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2013, c. 147, §8, is further amended to read:

5. Training and certification of adult corrections officers in State. In accordance with this chapter, to establish training and certification standards for all adult corrections officers, set requirements for board-approved courses, prescribe curriculum and certify graduates of board-approved courses and persons for whom the board has waived the training requirements of this chapter. Certification must be based on the officer's demonstration of having acquired specific knowledge and skills directly related to job performance; as a corrections officer who is responsible for the custody or direct

supervision of persons confined in a county or regional jail or state adult correctional facility.

A corrections officer who is certified and an employee of a county or regional jail or state adult correctional facility on the date the board establishes a separate basic training course and certification standards for juvenile corrections officers pursuant to subsection 5-B must be certified as an adult corrections officer pursuant to this subsection;

Sec. 5. 25 MRSA §2803-A, sub-§5-B is enacted to read:

5-B. Training and certification of juvenile corrections officers in State. In accordance with this chapter, to establish training and certification standards for all juvenile corrections officers, set requirements for board-approved courses, prescribe curriculum and certify graduates of board-approved courses and persons for whom the board has waived the training requirements of this chapter. Certification must be based on the officer's demonstration of having acquired specific knowledge and skills directly related to job performance as a corrections officer who is responsible for the custody or direct supervision of persons confined in a state juvenile correctional facility.

A corrections officer who is certified and an employee of a state juvenile correctional facility on the date the board establishes a separate basic training course and certification standards for juvenile corrections officers pursuant to this subsection must be certified as a juvenile corrections officer pursuant to this subsection;

Sec. 6. 25 MRSA §2804-D, as amended by PL 2017, c. 436, §1, is further amended to read:

§2804-D. Basic corrections training

1. Required. As a condition to the continued employment of any person as a corrections officer, that person must successfully complete, within the first 12 months of employment, a basic training course as approved by the board. The board may approve a separate basic training course and certification standards for juvenile corrections officers. Thereafter, as a condition of continued employment as a corrections officer, the officer must satisfactorily maintain the basic certification. The board, under extenuating and emergency circumstances in individual cases, may extend the 12-month period for not more than 180 days. The board, in individual cases, may waive basic training requirements when the facts indicate that an equivalent course has been successfully completed in another state or federal jurisdiction. A full-time correctional trade instructor must meet the training requirements established under this subsection for corrections officers. Beginning January 1, 2018, the basic training course must include 8 hours of training in how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorder that is provided by a trainer who is certified by a nationally recognized organization that provides evidence-based mental health ~~first aid~~ training.