

On Friday, January 20, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 436 of the State House, a public hearing was held on LD 1635, "An Act Regarding Inmates on Public Works Projects"

To view the bill, please refer to:

- <http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP1225&item=1&snum=125>

The bill removes the restriction that inmates of a county jail may work only on projects in the county where the jail is located.

The main sponsor of the bill, Representative Michael H. Clarke of Bath introduced the bill to the committee.

To view his testimony, please refer to:

- <http://howecahill.com/temp/20120120121341198.pdf>

Senator Stan Gerzofsky, a co sponsor of the bill also spoke in favor of the legislation.

Others that testified in favor of this legislation were:

- Two Bridges Regional Jail Correctional Administrator Colonel Mark Westrum; and
- Sagadahoc County Sheriff Joel A. Merry.

No one spoke against or neither for nor against the bill.

Upon conclusion of the public hearing, the committee unanimously agreed to go into work session on the bill.

At that time, Representative Deborah J. Sanderson of Chelsea made a motion of "Ought To Pass" on LD 1635. The motion passed unanimously of those members present.

On Friday, February 3, 2012, the Criminal Justice Committee reconsidered their action on LD 1635. They discussed an amendment that added language to clarify that a sheriff of a county that is part of a regional jail would also be permitted to oversee public works projects. The Criminal Justice Committee approved the above mentioned proposed amendment and voted unanimously "Ought To Pass As Amended" on the LD 1635.