

A GUIDE TO LD 178 BY PAROLE-4-MAINE

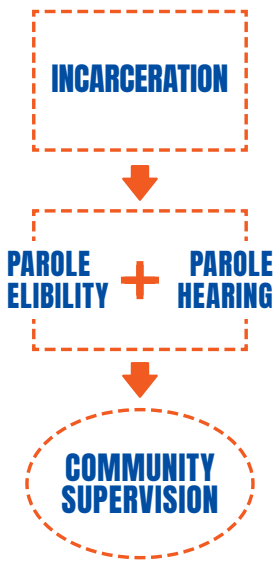
BRING BACK PAROLE IN MAINE



➔ Today, **nobody** incarcerated in Maine since 1976 is eligible for parole — no matter their rehabilitation status.

➔ When Maine became **the first state in the U.S. to abolish parole**, any opportunity for meaningful review of an incarcerated person's sentence ended.

➔ **LD 178 would restore parole**, transition rehabilitated individuals to a supervised release, and move communities from prolonged hurt to healing and health.

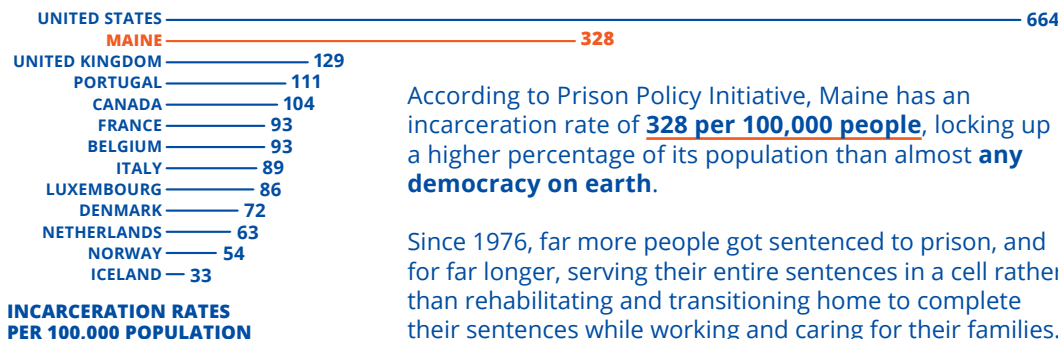


WHAT IS PAROLE? Parole is a **rehabilitative transition to public life** where a panel of experts determines whether an incarcerated person can finish their sentence under supervision from the Department of Corrections. If granted parole, the person isn't completely released from the corrections system — **they still have rules to follow** and a parole officer to check-in with regularly — but they can return to their homes, jobs and loved ones, while getting support to make their transition back to community successful.

PAROLE IN MAINE There has been **no improvement to public safety** since Maine abolished discretionary parole in 1976. Rehabilitating community members makes us safer, not flat sentences. People granted parole are **36 percent less likely** to return to prison compared to those released with zero supervision.

INCARCERATION IN MAINE Currently, only **three people are eligible for parole** in the state of Maine, having committed an offense prior to 1976. At the same time, almost a quarter of the people in Maine prisons have sentences exceeding 10 years. Even if people have proven that they are ready to go home, **there is no process in Maine to review their sentences** and transition them to the community with supervision. We need to bring back parole.

MAINE HAS AN INCARCERATION PROBLEM



According to Prison Policy Initiative, Maine has an incarceration rate of **328 per 100,000 people**, locking up a higher percentage of its population than almost **any democracy on earth**.

Since 1976, far more people got sentenced to prison, and for far longer, serving their entire sentences in a cell rather than rehabilitating and transitioning home to complete their sentences while working and caring for their families.

\$76,000

COST TO TAXPAYERS PER YEAR TO INCARCERATE ONE PERSON

20%

PERCENTAGE OF INCARCERATED PEOPLE OVER THE AGE OF 50

\$14.7M

ANNUAL INCREASE TO MAINE'S ECONOMY WITH 100 PAROLED WORKERS

PAROLE IS GOOD FOR EVERYBODY

NO MATTER YOUR POLITICS, HERE'S WHY TO SUPPORT PAROLE

1 Parole Incentivizes Rehabilitation and Improves Re-Entry

- ➔ Parole is the best transition back into the community. *The process promotes rehabilitation and provides opportunities to contribute to the community.*
- ➔ Parole means fewer people are damaged by the long-term effects of imprisonment.

2 Parole Improves Public Safety

- ➔ Parole mandates DOC supervision following release.
- ➔ Parole would not be granted to anyone who represents a risk to the community: *proof of rehabilitation is required.*

3 Parole Saves Money and Boosts The Economy

- ➔ It is **9 times more expensive** to incarcerate someone than to supervise them on parole.
- ➔ Experts estimate a \$14.7M boost to Maine's economy for every 100 people granted parole.



HOW DO WE BRING BACK PAROLE? The Maine Legislature's Commission to Examine Reestablishing Parole **officially recommended that parole return to Maine.** The subsequent bill — LD 178, **An Act to Support Reentry and Reintegration into the Community** — has been drafted and will have a hearing before members of the Maine Legislature in **March 2023.**

MAINERS STAND FOR JUSTICE

“Despite the violence that I have experienced in my life, including the domestic violence that I witnessed as a child, I am a firm believer that locking someone up for long periods of time without hope, rehabilitation, or opportunity for healing is not the answer.”

KATHY DURGIN-LEIGHTON
ED OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROJECT MAINE,
CRIME SURVIVOR (TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE
PAROLE COMMISSION, PG. 33)

“Most testimony presented by criminal justice professionals, victim advocates, and victims feels that parole should be re-established in Maine. It should be presumptive and available to all prisoners.”

DR. ARTHUR JONES
“FINDINGS” FROM PAROLE COMMISSION
REPORT, APPENDIX F, HIS #1 FINDING

“Many victims and survivors have only their past experiences to help them determine their level of safety and can only imagine an offender's return to the community based on that experience, seeing the transformation of the person under review may make them feel safer about their eventual release.”

LANE LEWIS ISRAELI
“IMAGINING A SURVIVOR-SENSITIVE PAROLE
PROCESS”, COMMISSION REPORT, APPENDIX E

“Of the dozens of people who testified, only **ONE** was opposed. People want a system that recognizes rehabilitation, and provides hope.”

FORMER REP. JEFF EVANGELOS
(I-FRIENDSHIP)

TAKE ACTION FOR LD 178!

- ✓ Share this information with two family members and five friends or coworkers.
- ✓ Email/Call your state Representative and Senator.
- ✓ Write letters to the editor of your local paper expressing support for parole in Maine and send copies to your state Representatives.
- ✓ Reach out to parole4maine.com to volunteer!