

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 1414

H.P. 972

House of Representatives, April 11, 2017

An Act To Ensure the Availability of In-person Visitation in County Jails

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator ROSEN of Hancock and
Representatives: COREY of Windham, GATTINE of Westbrook, GROHMAN of Biddeford,
LONGSTAFF of Waterville, WARREN of Hallowell.

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

2 **CONCEPT DRAFT**

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

5 This bill proposes to enact measures designed to ensure the availability in county jails
6 of in-person visitation between a prisoner and a visitor of the prisoner. In addition to
7 requiring that all prisoners have the opportunity for in-person visits in county jails, such
8 measures may include:

9 1. Limiting conditions on in-person visits to only those conditions and limitations
10 required for safety and security, except that the jail may provide video-only visitation if
11 needed for a particular prisoner's safety and security or may provide video-only visitation
12 on a short-term basis if the jail is unable to provide a safe and secure location for in-
13 person visitation;

14 2. Requiring opportunities for informal communication between a prisoner and a
15 visitor of the prisoner, including opportunities for physical contact, and prohibiting the
16 use of devices that preclude physical contact except in cases of substantiated security
17 risk; or

18 3. Establishing a minimum number of in-person visit opportunities per week;
19 requiring that video visitation be used only as a supplement to, and not a replacement of,
20 in-person visitation; ensuring that video visitation service fees are affordable for prisoners
21 and their families; and using, as a reward for good behavior, a certain number of free
22 video visits per month.