

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 267

H.P. 170

House of Representatives, January 28, 2025

An Act Regarding the Remote Appearance of Counsel in Pretrial Nontestimonial Criminal Matters

Received by the Clerk of the House on January 23, 2025. Referred to the Committee on
Judiciary pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative LEE of Auburn.
Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and
Representatives: CARUSO of Caratunk, HENDERSON of Rumford, KUHN of Falmouth,
POIRIER of Skowhegan, SATO of Gorham, SINCLAIR of Bath, Senators: President
DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, STEWART of Aroostook.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 15 MRSA §458** is enacted to read:

3 **§458. Appearance of counsel by remote methods**

4 Unless justice requires otherwise, the court shall schedule pretrial nontestimonial
5 criminal matters in a manner that permits the appearance of counsel by remote methods to
6 the greatest extent possible. As used in this section, "remote methods" has the same
7 meaning as in Title 1, section 403-B, subsection 1.

8 **SUMMARY**

9 This bill provides that, unless justice requires otherwise, the court must schedule
10 pretrial nontestimonial criminal matters in a manner that permits the appearance of counsel
11 by remote methods to the greatest extent possible.