

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

LD 756 An Act Regarding Criminal Services for Juveniles

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 737 transfers money from the Liquor Operation Revenue Fund and from money received for antitrust enforcement or enforcement of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act and makes an appropriation for restorative justice programs and certain programs for juveniles involved in the juvenile legal system.

LD 1175 An Act to Prohibit Excessive Telephone Charges in Maine Jails and Prisons

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 615 regulates the charges for telephone services for residents of a facility of the Department of Corrections or a jail beginning with contracts for telephone services entered into or renewed by the department or the jail on or after October 1, 2022.

1. Beginning with contracts for telephone services entered into or renewed by the Department of Corrections, with regard to telephone calls by a resident of a Department of Corrections facility, it requires the department to provide a resident with a reasonable opportunity to make interstate and intrastate calls in accordance with departmental policies and institutional procedures.
 - A. It requires a reasonable opportunity to call relatives and friends, subject to security restrictions, and provides an inmate with less than \$10 in the resident's facility account a free call allowance for 30 minutes for these calls per week.
 - B. It requires a reasonable opportunity to call the resident's attorney and provides an inmate with less than \$10 in the resident's facility account a free call allowance for 30 minutes for these calls per week.
2. With regard to a service provider that contracts with the Department of Corrections to provide calling services for resident, it limits the rates and charges for interstate and intrastate calls to the rates and charges for interstate calls set by the Federal Communications Commission; prohibits charging fees for the free calls to relatives and friends and attorneys; prohibits charging a connection fee; prohibits blocking calls based on the lack of a prior billing relationship; requires disclosure of the provider and rate information; and requires the provider to permit termination prior to connection without charge.
3. Beginning with contracts for telephone services entered into or renewed by a jail on or after October 1, 2022, with regard to calls by a resident of the jail, it limits the rates and charges for interstate and intrastate calls to the rates and charges for interstate calls set by the Federal Communications Commission.