

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

STATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

July 2022

MEMBERS:

SEN. ANNE M. CARNEY, CHAIR
SEN. HEATHER B. SANBORN
SEN. LISA M. KEIM

REP. THOM HARNETT, CHAIR
REP. CHRISTOPHER W. BABBIDGE
REP. JOYCE MCCREIGHT*
REP. BARBARA A. CARDONE*
REP. LOIS GALGAY RECKITT
REP. STEPHEN W. MORIARTY
REP. ERIN R. SHEEHAN
REP. DAVID G. HAGGAN
REP. LAUREL D. LIBBY*
REP. JENNIFER L. POIRIER
REP. JAMES F. THORNE*
REP. JEFFREY EVANGELOS
REP. RENA D. NEWELL

STAFF:

MARGARET REINSCH, SR. LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
JANET STOCCO, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670
<http://legislature.maine.gov/opla/>

*Committee member for portion of session

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

LD 1971 An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 611 implements the recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee concerning remote participation by members of a public body subject to the Freedom of Access Act.

Current law does not authorize members of a public body to participate in a public proceeding when not physically present unless the public body has properly adopted a remote participation policy that meets the requirement of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 403-B. Chapter 611 authorizes a public body to adopt the required remote participation policy through remote participation via a two-step process.

1. If the chair of the public body determines that an emergency or urgent issue exists that prevents the public body from meeting in person, the chair may call a meeting of the public body in which the members may participate by remote methods. Public notice of the meeting must be provided and must include information about how the public can participate in the meeting. The proposed remote participation policy must be included with the notice of the remote meeting or the notice must include instructions on how to obtain a copy of the proposed policy in advance of the meeting. Once the meeting is convened, the members must vote on whether to support the chair's determination that an emergency or urgent issue exists that prevents the public body from meeting in person.
2. If at least two-thirds of the members vote in support of the chair's determination, after an opportunity for hearing, the members may vote on adopting a policy authorizing remote participation.

Chapter 611 also amends the current law that applies to the obligation of public bodies to make documents available to the public to ensure that access to the proposed remote participation policy is provided in advance of the remote meeting called to adopt the policy.

LD 1972 An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Public Records Exceptions Related to Research and Aquaculture Leases

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 581 amends the public records exception in the laws governing research and aquaculture leases to clarify that a copy of a seeding and harvesting report provided to a municipality is confidential.