

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1474**

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H. P. 1181 House of Representatives, March 25, 1975  
Referred to the Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent  
up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Lovell of Sanford.  
Cosponsor: Mr. Pelosi of Portland.

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## STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-FIVE

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**AN ACT** Relating to Private Visitation and Rehabilitative Process at  
Correctional Institutions.

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

34 MRSA § 508 is enacted to read:

§ 508. Private visitation

All inmates of a prison, reformatory or institution within this State shall, subject to the provisions of this section, be permitted to have private visitation. Such visitation shall be designed to allow privacy between the inmate and his or her family, friends or medical and legal advocates for the purpose of counsel and emotional support. Such private visitation may take place within the prison, reformatory or institution as determined by the head of such place, and such head will make written regulations affecting the time and place of such visitation. In no case shall such visitation be withheld from a person for more than 4 consecutive weeks. Such visitation shall have a minimal time limit of 3 hours. Officials, employees and agents of such prisons, institutions or reformatories shall not impose upon the privacy of such visitation without just cause. Such cause shall be stated specifically in said regulations. In addition, the heads of such institutions may provide for more generous and humane visitation pursuant to said written regulations.

All inmates affected by this statute shall receive written notice in each instance of his or her private visitation at least one week prior to the actual date of such private visitation. If any person is given such visitation at a

time or place different from that previously established, they shall be notified in writing of such change.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The intent of this bill is to secure the right of private visitation to inmates of Maine's correctional institutions. It is further intended to perpetuate the rehabilitative process by maximizing the opportunity for the strengthening of social, community and family responsibility.