

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 807

H.P. 584

House of Representatives, February 20, 2003

An Act To Permit the Use of Videoconferencing for the Purpose of Jail Visitation

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative BOWLES of Sanford.
Cosponsored by Senator NASS of York and
Representatives: CARR of Lincoln, CHURCHILL of Washburn, GREELEY of Levant,
SHERMAN of Hodgdon.

2
3 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

4 Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §1565 is enacted to read:

5 §1565. Visitation by videoconferencing

6
7 1. Visitation by videoconferencing. Notwithstanding any
8 rule or institutional procedure, a sheriff in charge of a county
9 jail may authorize prisoners who are entitled to in-person
10 visitation with family or friends to have visitation by
11 videoconferencing. Videoconferencing may be used as a substitute
12 for in-person visitation only with the prisoner's consent. For
13 the purposes of this section, "videoconferencing" means the
14 transmission of synchronized images and speech between physically
15 separate locations.

16
17 2. Application. Visitation by videoconferencing is allowed
18 only for visitation by a prisoner's family or friends.
19 Visitation by a prisoner's legal counsel, religious advisor or
20 clergy must be in person.

21
22 3. Rules. A sheriff may establish procedures necessary to
23 carry out the purposes of this section.
24

25
26 **SUMMARY**

27
28 This bill authorizes a county sheriff to allow a county jail
29 to provide a prisoner with visitation with friends or family by
30 videoconferencing, rather than in person, with the prisoner's
31 consent. The bill specifies that visitation by a prisoner's
32 attorney or religious advisor must be in person.