

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

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Legislative Document

No. 1438

H.P. 1069

House of Representatives, April 11, 2011

### **An Act To Require Videoconferencing for Civil and Criminal Proceedings for Inmates**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST  
Clerk

Presented by Representative BURNS of Whiting.  
Cosponsored by President RAYE of Washington and  
Representatives: CLARKE of Bath, CROCKETT of Bethel, CURTIS of Madison, ESPLING  
of New Gloucester, GUERIN of Glenburn, OLSEN of Phippsburg, SANDERSON of Chelsea.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §1060** is enacted to read:

3 **§1060. Videoconferencing**

4 **1. Videoconferencing.** Each court shall use videoconferencing technology to  
5 conduct all civil and criminal court proceedings involving a prisoner committed to a  
6 county or state correctional facility, except for a proceeding that requires the prisoner's  
7 physical presence in the courtroom.

8 **2. Reimbursement of expenses.** Beginning July 1, 2012, annually the Department  
9 of Corrections, State Board of Corrections shall determine what, if any, cost savings for  
10 counties in the transportation of prisoners for court appearances resulted from subsection  
11 1 for the previous 12 months. If the board determines a county has reduced prisoner  
12 transportation costs due to the provisions of subsection 1, the board shall adjust the  
13 county's budget under Title 30-A, section 710, subsection 4 to reimburse start-up and  
14 ongoing court expenses for carrying out subsection 1 for the previous 12 months for all  
15 courts to which the county would have transported a prisoner if videoconferencing had  
16 not been used. The amount of reimbursement of court expenses under this subsection  
17 may not exceed the amount of transportation cost savings for the reimbursing county.

18 **SUMMARY**

19 This bill requires the courts to use videoconferencing technology to conduct all civil  
20 and criminal court proceedings involving a prisoner committed to a county or state  
21 correctional facility, except for a proceeding that requires the prisoner's physical presence  
22 in the courtroom. This bill also requires the Department of Corrections, State Board of  
23 Corrections to adjust a county's budget to pay for expenses incurred by a court in using  
24 videoconferencing for prisoner court proceedings from savings of the county in reduced  
25 costs for transporting prisoners.