

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 218

S.P. 64

In Senate, January 24, 2017

**An Act To Reduce Criminal Justice System Costs by Allowing
Arraignments and Hearings in the Unified Criminal Docket To Be
Held by Means of Audiovisual Telecommunications**

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Senators: LIBBY of Androscoggin, MASON of Androscoggin,
Representative: GOLDEN of Lewiston.

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. Audiovisual arraignments and hearings**

4 In any criminal action in the Unified Criminal Docket, as determined by the court to
5 be appropriate with respect to the defendant and to make sound fiscal sense, an
6 arraignment or hearing may be held by means of audiovisual telecommunications. When
7 an arraignment or hearing is held by means of audiovisual telecommunications pursuant
8 to this section, the court shall ensure that a recording of the arraignment or hearing is
9 made and retained as part of the case file. For the purposes of this section, "Unified
10 Criminal Docket" means the unified criminal docket established by the Supreme Judicial
11 Court.

12 **SUMMARY**

13 This bill provides that in any criminal action in the Unified Criminal Docket, as
14 determined by the court to be appropriate to the defendant and to make sound fiscal
15 sense, an arraignment or hearing may be held by means of audiovisual
16 telecommunications. The bill provides that when an arraignment or hearing is held by
17 means of audiovisual telecommunications, the court is required to ensure that a recording
18 of the arraignment or hearing is made and retained as part of the case file.