

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

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Legislative Document

No. 776

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H.P. 581

House of Representatives, March 5, 2021

**An Act To Amend the Length of Time and Circumstances for  
Which a Sheriff May Furlough Individuals Incarcerated in a  
County Jail**

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Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative COSTAIN of Plymouth.  
Cosponsored by Senator: DESCHAMBAULT of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §1556, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §118,  
3 is further amended to read:

4 **1. Furlough authorized.** The sheriff may establish rules for and permit a prisoner  
5 under the final sentence of a court a furlough from the county jail in which the prisoner is  
6 confined. Furlough may be granted for not more than ~~3~~ 7 days at one time in order to  
7 permit the prisoner to visit a dying relative, to obtain medical services, to participate in a  
8 program operated by a jail that conditions release on regular daily reporting to the jail of  
9 the prisoner's location and activities or for any other reason consistent with the  
10 rehabilitation of an inmate or prisoner that is consistent with the laws or rules of the sheriff's  
11 department. Furlough may be granted for a period longer than ~~3~~ 7 days if required to  
12 provide treatment for a physical or mental condition of the prisoner, including a substance  
13 use disorder, as determined by a qualified licensed professional.

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This bill extends from 3 to 7 days the length of time that a sheriff may furlough a person  
16 who is incarcerated in a county jail. The bill adds to the purposes for which furlough may  
17 be granted participation in a program operated by a jail that conditions release on regular  
18 daily reporting to the jail of the prisoner's location and activities.