

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

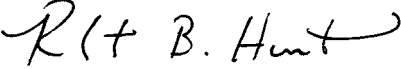
No. 1425

H.P. 921

House of Representatives, March 30, 2023

**An Act to Strengthen Freedom of Access Protections by Allowing
Remote Meetings to Be Recorded**

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft.
Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset and
Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, BOYER of Poland, BRADSTREET of Vassalboro,
HASENFUS of Readfield, LAJOIE of Lewiston, LANDRY of Farmington, NUTTING of
Oakland, QUINT of Hodgdon.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §403-B, sub-§2, ¶G,** as enacted by PL 2021, c. 290, §1, is
3 amended to read:

4 G. All votes taken during a public proceeding using remote methods must be taken by
5 roll call vote that can be seen and heard if using video technology, and heard if using
6 only audio technology, by the other members of the public body and the public; ~~and~~

7 **Sec. 2. 1 MRSA §403-B, sub-§2, ¶H,** as amended by PL 2021, c. 611, §2, is further
8 amended to read:

9 H. The public body must make all documents and other materials considered by the
10 public body available, electronically or otherwise, to the public who attend by remote
11 methods to the same extent customarily available to members of the public who attend
12 the proceedings of the public body in person, as long as additional costs are not incurred
13 by the public body. The public body must make the proposed policy regarding remote
14 participation available in advance of the meeting if meeting remotely under paragraph
15 A, subparagraphs (1) and (2); and

16 **Sec. 3. 1 MRSA §403-B, sub-§2, ¶I** is enacted to read:

17 I. The public body must allow for remote recording of the meeting by members of the
18 public on the same platform that is used to conduct the meeting as long as additional
19 costs are not incurred by the public body.

20 A public official who willfully violates this paragraph or willfully unduly hinders the
21 public's ability to record a remote meeting is subject to the provisions of section 410.

22 **SUMMARY**

23 This bill provides that a public body must allow for remote recording of a public
24 meeting by members of the public on the same platform that is used to conduct the meeting
25 as long as additional costs are not incurred by the public body.