

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN

H.P. 572 - L.D. 767

**An Act To Ensure the Availability of In-person Visitation in County Jails**

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

**Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §1556-A** is enacted to read:

**§1556-A. Visitation**

Except as otherwise provided in this section, and subject to any conditions and limitations required for the safety and security of a county jail as determined on a case-by-case basis by the sheriff of the county jail, the sheriff shall provide for in-person visitation between a prisoner and a visitor of the prisoner.

**1. Video-only visitation.** Upon a determination by the sheriff of a county jail that in-person visitation between a particular prisoner and a visitor of the prisoner may jeopardize the safety and security of the jail, the sheriff may restrict that prisoner to video-only visitation. Upon a determination by the sheriff that the jail facility is unable to provide a safe and secure location for any in-person visitation, the sheriff, on a short-term basis only, may restrict all visitation at the jail to video-only visitation.

**2. Contact visitation.** Subject to any conditions and limitations required for the safety and security of a county jail as determined on a case-by-case basis by the sheriff, the sheriff shall provide opportunities for in-person visitation involving physical contact between a prisoner and a visitor of the prisoner, unless the sheriff determines that the jail facility is unable to provide a safe and secure location for any in-person visitation involving physical contact.