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This bill would allow a person arrested on a warrant to demand to appear in court through the use of interactive video conferencing (ITV) when the arrest takes place in a county other than the one in which the warrant was issued, the person is held in custody, the person is charged with a misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor, and the person would otherwise be transported over 50 miles. Under this bill, ITV could be used for most hearings except for trials where the underlying charge was a gross misdemeanor.

Rule 1.05 of the Minnesota Rules of Criminal Procedure currently governs the use of ITV. Unlike this bill, the rule requires consent by the defense attorney, prosecutor, and judge before the use of ITV in most hearings.