
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6714

AN ACT CONCERNING THE COST OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Correction (DOC) to provide telephone services for inmates in correctional facilities and also allows the commissioner to supplement the phone service with other telecommunications services, including video communication and e-mail services. The commissioner cannot limit or replace in-person visits to the inmate based on provision of these services. The bill prohibits DOC from receiving revenue for phone or telecommunications service to any inmate. To the extent that the commissioner provides any such service, it must be free of charge to the inmates and the person initiating or receiving the communication.

The bill also repeals:

1. laws requiring the Department of Administrative Services to transfer some of the revenue derived from inmate phone calls to (a) the judicial department for probation transition program and technical violation unit staff and services and (b) DOC to expand inmate educational services and re-entry initiatives and
2. an obsolete law requiring DOC to establish a debit account telephone system pilot program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 24 Nay 15 (04/09/2019)