

## **Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** HB801H1

**House of Origin**     Introduced     Substitute     Engrossed  
**Second House**     In Committee     Substitute     Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Rasoul

**3. Committee:** Appropriations

**4. Title:** Electronic communication systems within state correctional facilities; free telephone calls.

**5. Summary:** The substitute bill requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) to provide telephone systems within correctional facilities at the lowest available rates. The bill establishes that the maximum number of telephone numbers permitted on an approved call list must be no fewer than 20. The bill prohibits DOC from receiving any commission from such telephone systems.

The bill also requires that electronic communication services, including electronic visitation systems or electronic messaging systems, Voice-over-Internet Protocol technology and web-based communication systems, must be provided using the lowest available rates. The bill prohibits DOC from receiving any commission for installation or operation of the system. The bill allows DOC to temporarily limit the use of the system during periods of heightened security or emergencies.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary. See Item 8 below.

**8. Fiscal Implications:**

### **Inmate Telephone Services/Video Visitation**

DOC reports that there is no fiscal impact associated with the provisions of the substitute bill that affect inmate telephone services and video visitation.

### **Inmate Messaging Services**

Secure messaging services for inmates are provided through a vendor contract. Initiators of the message pay the vendor directly and are charged between \$0.25 to \$0.39 depending on the size and number of attachments included in a message. The vendor collected \$3.2 million in FY 2023 from inmates and individuals to support the inmate messaging service. DOC receives a commission from the vendor, which is used to support post-secondary education programs for inmates. DOC reports that commissions received in FY 2023 totaled \$103,433.

DOC reports that amounts similar to this would be foregone in future years under the provisions of this bill. However, it is expected that the agency could absorb this loss.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Corrections

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None