

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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HB-6714

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

AMENDMENT

LCO No.: 9877

File Copy No.: 776

House Calendar No.: 484

OFA Fiscal Note

Explanation

This amendment strikes the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact resulting in the following impact. The amendment makes changes beginning in FY 22 resulting in the impact seen below in the out yeats.

The Out Years

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$	FY 24 \$
Correction, Dept.	GF - Cost	3.8 to 4.5 million	5 to 6 million	5 to 6 million
Correction, Dept.; Judicial Dept.; Dept. of Administrative Services	GF - Revenue Loss	5.8 million	7.7 million	7.7 million
Correction, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

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The amendment requires the Department of Correction (DOC) to provide telephone services for inmates free of charge and results in various costs and revenue losses to the state. Currently, inmates and their families pay for each call and a portion of that money compensates the vendor for providing the service and the remainder goes to the state to fund various programs.

Cost Impact:

- It will cost DOC approximately \$3.8 - \$4.5 million in FY 22 and \$5 - \$6 million in FY 23 and 24 to compensate the vendor for the telephone services. The exact cost will depend on the inmate call volume which could potentially increase due to the fees being removed and the inmate population which has been decreasing in recent years.
- There is a potential cost to the extent the Commissioner of DOC adds video communication and electronic mail services for inmates because the bill dictates that these services shall be free of charge.

Revenue Impact:

- The amendment results in an approximate revenue loss of \$5.8 million in FY 22 and \$7.7 million in FY 23 and 24. This money goes to DOC for expanding inmate educational services and reentry program initiatives, and the remainder pays for criminal justice information system (in DAS) and for probation staffing in the Judicial Department.

Municipal Impact: None

The preceding Fiscal Impact statement is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.