

SB 498 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Prepared By: Addie Smith, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 2/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) to write rules, and cities and counties to adopt ordinances, that prohibit correctional facilities from entering into contracts with telephone services providers that provide for payments from the telephone service provider to the department, city, county, or facility.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Removes the requirement that DOC promulgate rules. Prohibits DOC from entering into contracts with telephone services providers wherein DOC receives a fee or commission; allows DOC to enter into contracts with telephone service providers wherein the provider reimburses DOC for internal and external oversight and management costs or payment a third party provider. Includes regional correctional facilities.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Corrections currently collects approximately \$3.6 million commission each year from its telephone service provider contract: a flat fee of \$3 million, plus a percentage of the revenue when the calls exceed certain projections. This funding is used for purposes other than the provision of phone services—specifically, the “inmate welfare fund.” DOC is has recently issued a Request for Proposals for a telephone service provider and will be negotiating a new contract as part of that process.

Senate Bill 498 requires DOC to promulgate rules and cities and counties to adopt ordinances that prohibit correctional facilities from collecting fees or payments for telephone services provided to individuals in their custody.