

HB 3118 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 2/19, 3/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Department of Corrections to enter into a contract with a third party to provide communication services to people confined in corrections institutions and to provide those services at no cost to those confined persons. The measure prohibits the Department of Corrections from receiving compensation from third party providers for providing the services, limiting access to other services to offset the cost or time of administering the measure, or limiting access to the communication services except as provided by department rules.

Detailed Summary

Requires the Department of Corrections to:

- Enter into a third-party contract to provide communication services to people confined in Department of Corrections institutions.
- Provide those services at no cost to the persons confined or the person being communicated with.
- Submit a biennial report to the House and Senate judiciary committees that includes copies of any contract for communication services, a report of expenditures, and data on usage of the services.

Prohibits the Department of Corrections from:

- Receiving compensation from any third-party provider in relation to the provision of the services;
- Limiting access to the services except as provided by department rules;
- Limiting access to in-person visitations or communications to offset the cost of administering the measure.

Requires the department to submit a progress report on the implementation of the measure to the House and Senate judiciary committees by February 1, 2026.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Limitations on who a person in custody may call for free

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 The amendment limits the daily duration of communication services the department must provide to persons in custody to one hour and permits the department to adopt rules to implement the measure. The amendment changes the requirement from providing access to "communication services" to providing access to "voice communication services," deletes the definition of "communication services" in the measure and instead defines "voice communication services" as "voice communication by telephone, cellular telephone, Voice over Internet Protocol or other technology that allows for real-time audio communication between people in different locations."

REVENUE: Has minimal revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

BACKGROUND:

Adult in custody phone calls at Oregon Department of Corrections facilities are currently provided by ICS Corrections, Inc., at a rate of \$0.09 per minute for domestic calls, which can be paid either by the person in custody or by the person being communicated with. On July 18, 2024, the Federal Communications Commission

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.

issued new rules that cap the rates for audio communications services for incarcerated persons between \$0.06-\$0.12 per minute depending on the size of the facility. 47 CFR § 64.6010.

PRELIMINARY