

JBC Staff Fiscal Analysis

House Appropriations Committee

Concerning communication rights for persons in custody.

Prime Sponsors:

Representative Garcia
Senators Amabile; Gonzales J.

Date Prepared:

March 21, 2025

JBC Analyst:

Justin Brakke
303-866-4958

Fiscal Impacts

Appropriation Not Required, Amendment in Packet

Fiscal Note Status

The most recent Legislative Council Staff Revised Fiscal Note (attached) reflects the fiscal impact of the bill as of 03/21/25.

No Change: Attached LCS Fiscal Note accurately reflects the fiscal impact of the bill.

Amendments in This Packet

L.002 Bill Sponsor amendment - does not change fiscal impact.

Current Appropriations Clause in Bill

The bill does not require or include an appropriation clause.

Description of Amendments in This Packet

Bill sponsor amendment **L.002** (attached) strikes the House Judiciary Committee report (dated January 22, 2025) and substitutes language that strikes and replaces everything below the enacting clause.

It adds definitions for the terms “authorized representative” and “place of confinement.” The amendment also does two other things. It allows attorney's authorized representatives to interact with the attorney's clients or in the case of the public defender potential clients when they are determining whether they can represent them. Second, it requires the jails and prisons to allow attorneys and their clients to communicate by phone or electronic means. The call or video chat must be private, unrecorded, and free. **JBC and LCS staff agree that this amendment does not have a fiscal impact.**

Points to Consider

None.