

JBC Staff Fiscal Analysis
Senate Appropriations Committee

Concerning the amount that the department of corrections covers for penal communications services, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

Prime Sponsors:

Senators Amabile; Bridges
Representatives Bird; Sirota

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Fiscal Impacts

Appropriation Already Added to Bill, No Amendment in Packet

General Fund Impact

Significant Appropriation Increase in Second (or Third) Year

Fiscal Note Status

The most recent Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note (attached) reflects the fiscal impact of the bill as of 03/31/25.

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

Amendments in This Packet

None.

Current Appropriations Clause in Bill

The bill includes an appropriations clause that provides \$1,436,165 General Fund to the Department of Corrections in FY 2025-26. This amount is appropriated to cover 75.0 percent of the cost of inmate phone calls.

Combined with a Long Bill appropriation of \$1,434,634 General Fund, the total appropriation for this purpose in FY 2025-26 is \$2,870,799 General Fund.

Points to Consider

General Fund Impact

The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) has proposed a budget package for FY 2025-26 based on the March 2025 Office of State Planning and Budgeting revenue forecast. The JBC has included as part of its FY 2025-26 budget package \$1,436,165 General Fund to be appropriated for implementation of this bill.

Future Fiscal Impact

This bill is projected to require an appropriation of \$2,308,237 General Fund in FY 2026-27 to cover 100.0 percent of the cost of inmate phone calls. Current law requires the Department to cover 100.0 percent of the cost of inmate phone calls in FY 2025-26. This bill pushes that requirement to FY 2026-27. The fiscal note therefore shows that this bill saves \$2,308,237 General Fund in FY 2025-26, but this appropriation will be required in FY 2026-27.