

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 25-0893.01 Michael Dohr x4347

SENATE BILL 25-208

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Amabile and Bridges, Kirkmeyer

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Bird and Sirota, Taggart

Senate Committees

Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE AMOUNT THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**
102 **COVERS FOR PENAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, AND, IN**
103 **CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)

Joint Budget Committee. Under current law, beginning July 1, 2025, the department of corrections is required to cover 100% of all inmate phone call costs. The bill changes the amount the department of corrections is required to cover, beginning July 1, 2025, to 75% of all inmate phone call costs. The bill requires the department of corrections

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

to cover 100% of all inmate phone call costs on and after July 1, 2026. The bill appropriates \$1,436,165 from the general fund to the department of corrections for inmate telephone calls.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 17-42-103, **amend** (1.5) introductory portion, (1.5)(b), and (1.5)(c); and **add** (1.5)(d) as follows:

17-42-103. Policies concerning inmates' use of telephones - excessive rates prohibited - transparency of communications services in correctional facilities - report - definitions. (1.5) In administering the use of penal communications services pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, access to penal communications services must not be limited beyond what is necessary for routine facility operations. The department shall provide penal communications services, excluding video calls or electronic mail or messaging, ~~free of charge~~ to the person initiating and the person receiving the penal communications service, and implement the provision of ~~free~~ penal ~~communication~~ COMMUNICATIONS services, excluding video calls or electronic mail or messaging, according to the following timeline:

(b) Beginning July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, the department shall cover thirty-five percent of the total penal communications costs; ~~and~~

(c) Beginning July 1, 2025, ~~and thereafter~~, the department shall cover ~~one hundred~~ SEVENTY-FIVE percent of all penal ~~communication~~ COMMUNICATIONS costs; AND

(d) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026, AND THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL COVER ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF ALL PENAL COMMUNICATIONS

1 COSTS.

2 **SECTION 2. Appropriation.** For the 2025-26 state fiscal year,
3 \$1,436,165 is appropriated to the department of corrections for use by
4 institutions. This appropriation is from the general fund. To implement
5 this act, the institutions may use this appropriation for inmate telephone
6 calls.

7 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
8 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
9 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
10 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
11 institutions.