

# House Bill 3118

Sponsored by Representatives CHOTZEN, NERON, Senators PROZANSKI, GELSER BLOUIN; Representative HUDSON, Senators CAMPOS, FREDERICK, GORSEK, JAMA, REYNOLDS (Pre-session filed.)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act would tell DOC to give persons in custody access to some communication services for free. (Flesch Readability Score: 60.1).

Requires the Department of Corrections to enter into a contract with a third party to provide communications services at no cost to persons confined at a Department of Corrections institution.

Prohibits the receipt of financial or in-kind compensation by the department for providing communications services to persons in custody.

Directs the department to submit a progress report on the implementation of the Act to the Legislative Assembly by February 1, 2026, and a biennial report on certain data to the Legislative Assembly no later than September 15 of each even-numbered year.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to communications services for persons in custody; creating new provisions; and amending  
3 ORS 421.076.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 421.076 is amended to read:

6 421.076. *[(1) The Department of Corrections may enter into a contract with an inmate telephone*  
7 *services provider in which the provider provides inmate telephone services or other inmate communi-*  
8 *cations systems at the provider's cost and reimburses the department.]*

9 *[(a) For the department's internal and external costs to oversee and manage the inmate telephone*  
10 *services or communications system; and]*

11 *[(b) To pay third party providers.]*

12 *[(2) The department may not enter into a contract with an inmate telephone services provider that*  
13 *authorizes the department to receive a fee or commission for telephone services provided to inmates*  
14 *other than the reimbursement described in subsection (1) of this section.]*

15 **(1) The Department of Corrections shall enter into a contract with a third party to pro-**  
16 **vide communications services to all persons confined at a Department of Corrections insti-**  
17 **tution.**

18 **(2) The communications services provided under subsection (1) of this section must be**  
19 **provided at no direct or indirect cost to the person confined at the Department of Cor-**  
20 **rections institution or the person who is communicating with the person confined at the**  
21 **Department of Corrections institution.**

22 **(3) The department may not receive any financial or in-kind compensation from any third**  
23 **party provider in relation to the provision of communications services under subsection (1)**  
24 **of this section.**

25 **(4)(a) Except pursuant to rules adopted by the department, the department may not limit**  
26 **access to communications services for persons confined at a Department of Corrections in-**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **stitution.**

2 **(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection, the department may not limit ac-**  
3 **cess to in-person visitations or communications services to offset the cost or time of ad-**  
4 **ministering this section.**

5 **(5)(a) The department shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and**  
6 **may include recommendations for legislation, to the interim committees of the Legislative**  
7 **Assembly related to the judiciary no later than September 15 of each even-numbered year.**

8 **(b) The report must include:**

9 **(A) A copy of any contract for communications services entered into by the department**  
10 **and a third party under subsection (1) of this section, including any amendments to the**  
11 **contract;**

12 **(B) A detailed accounting of expenditures by the department during the prior biennium**  
13 **to administer this section; and**

14 **(C) Data on the usage of all communications services by persons confined at a Depart-**  
15 **ment of Corrections institution, including monthly data disaggregated by the type of com-**  
16 **munication.**

17 **(6) As used in this section, “communications services” means:**

18 **(a) Voice communication by telephone, cellular telephone, Voice over Internet Protocol**  
19 **or other technology that allows for real-time audio communication between people in differ-**  
20 **ent locations.**

21 **(b) Video communication by computer, tablet computer, cellular telephone or other**  
22 **technology that allows for real-time audio and video communication between people in dif-**  
23 **ferent locations.**

24 **(c) Text communication by computer, tablet computer, cellular telephone or other tech-**  
25 **nology that allows for real-time text communication between people in different locations.**

26 **SECTION 2. (1) The Department of Corrections shall submit a progress report on the**  
27 **implementation status of section 1 of this 2025 Act in the manner provided by ORS 192.245,**  
28 **and may include recommendations for legislation, to the interim committees of the Legisla-**  
29 **tive Assembly related to the judiciary no later than February 1, 2026.**

30 **(2) The department shall submit the first report required under section 1 (5) of this 2025**  
31 **Act no later than September 15, 2026.**

32 **SECTION 3. Section 2 of this 2025 Act is repealed on January 2, 2027.**

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