

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 545

BY REPRESENTATIVE JORDAN

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

CORRECTIONS/PRISONERS: Provides relative to payphones and communications for incarcerated individuals

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 15:822 and R.S. 39:1756, relative to telecommunication services for
3 incarcerated persons in the custody of the Department of Public Safety and
4 Corrections; to prohibit telecommunication services from charging the incarcerated
5 person or the person accepting the call from the incarcerated person; to provide for
6 a definition; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 15:822 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §822. Telecommunication services for incarcerated persons; charges prohibited;
10 compliance with Louisiana Procurement Code

11 A. No telecommunication service provided to a person who has been
12 committed to the custody of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall
13 include a charge to the incarcerated person or to the person accepting the
14 communication from the incarcerated person.

15 B. Any negotiation for procurement of telecommunication services by the
16 Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall be conducted in accordance with
17 and subject to the requirements of telecommunication procurement procedures under
18 the provisions of the Louisiana Procurement Code, R.S. 39:1751 et seq.

19 C. For the purposes of this Section, "telecommunication service" shall mean
20 a method of communication which enables persons in different locations to

1 participate in a meeting and to see, hear, and communicate with each other. It shall
2 also mean any system that transmits audio or video over a distance using wire, radio,
3 cellular, or electric signals.

4 Section 2. R.S. 39:1756 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

5 §1756. Telecommunication services for incarcerated persons; charges prohibited

6 A. No telecommunication service provided to a person who has been
7 committed to the custody of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall
8 include a charge to the incarcerated person or to the person accepting the
9 communication from the incarcerated person.

10 B. No contract for telecommunication services provided to a person who has
11 been committed to the custody of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections
12 shall include provisions which authorize charges to the incarcerated person or the
13 person accepting the communication from the incarcerated person.

14 C. For the purposes of this Section, "telecommunication service" shall mean
15 a method of communication which enables persons in different locations to
16 participate in a meeting and to see, hear, and communicate with each other. It shall
17 also mean any system that transmits audio or video over a distance using wire, radio,
18 cellular, or electric signals.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 545 Original

2023 Regular Session

Jordan

Abstract: Prohibits the charging of a person who has been committed to the custody of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections (DPS&C) for using a telecommunication service or the person accepting the communication from the incarcerated person.

Proposed law (R.S. 15:822) provides that no telecommunication service provided to a person who has been committed to the custody of DPS&C shall include a charge to the incarcerated person or to the person accepting a telephone call from the incarcerated person.

Proposed law provides that any negotiation for procurement of telecommunication services by DPS&C shall be conducted in accordance with and subject to the requirements of telecommunication procurement procedures under the provisions of present law (R.S. 39:1751 et seq.).

Proposed law defines the term "telecommunication service".

Proposed law (R.S. 39:1756) provides that no telecommunication service provided to a person who has been committed to the custody of DPS&C shall include a charge to the incarcerated person or to the person accepting a telephone call from the incarcerated person.

Proposed law provides that no contract for telecommunication services provided to a person who has been committed to the custody of DPS&C shall include provisions which authorize charges to the incarcerated person or the person accepting a telephone call from the incarcerated person.

Proposed law defines the term "telecommunication service".

(Adds R.S. 15:822 and R.S. 39:1756)