

Subject Communication services for confined persons

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Overview

Under section 241.252, a state adult or juvenile facility under the control of the commissioner of corrections must provide incarcerated persons with voice communication services free of charge, and may offer video, email, or electronic messaging services. This bill expands free communication services to include all confined persons – individuals confined in any facility, setting, or program owned, operated, or under the control of the commissioner of human services or the Direct Care and Treatment (DCT) executive board. The bill also modifies reporting requirements related to communication services, and exempts communications costs from the costs of care for treatment in DCT facilities.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Free communication services for confined persons.
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Amends § 241.252. Expands free communication services for incarcerated persons to include persons who are confined in facilities that are not correctional facilities. Defines “facility” for purposes of the section, to include human services or DCT facilities. Specifies that video calls must not be used to replace or count towards in-person visits.

Modifies Department of Corrections reporting requirements to include the status of the agency’s communication contracts and any plans to consolidate contracts and specify that summary data on usage is required. Adds requirement for other agencies operating facilities to annually report to the commissioner of corrections on communication services; requires the commissioner of corrections to submit a summary to the legislature.

2	Free communication services for patients and clients.
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Proposes coding for § 246.0142. Requires the commissioner of human services and the DCT executive board and all facilities under their control to comply with the free communication requirements of section 241.252 and to exempt communication

Section	Description
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	services costs from the cost of care. Specifies that a civilly committed person's communication services may still be restricted or limited for the person's medical welfare, or as necessary in the Minnesota Sex Offender Program for security, safety, or to maintain a therapeutic environment.
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