

1 AN ACT concerning criminal law.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Unified Code of Corrections is amended by
5 adding Section 3-7-10 as follows:

6 (730 ILCS 5/3-7-10 new)

7 Sec. 3-7-10. Mail delivery, scanning, and communication
8 services.

9 (a) As used in this Section:

10 "Correspondent" means any person or entity that sends mail
11 to or receives mail from a committed person.

12 "Department" means the Department of Corrections.

13 "Mail communication" means the practice of the delivery
14 and receipt of materials through the United States Postal
15 Service.

16 "Mail scanning services" means the practice of
17 electronically scanning incoming and outgoing mail to digitize
18 the documents received and either print for distribution to
19 persons in custody or electronically send the documents to the
20 person in custody, including, but not limited to, the process
21 of photocopying incoming and outgoing mail and distributing
22 the photocopies to the person in custody.

23 "Other communication services" means communication

1 services other than voice communications and mail
2 communications, including, but not limited to, video calls and
3 electronic messages.

4 "Voice communications" means real-time, audio-only
5 communication services, including, but not limited to, phone
6 calls made over wireline telephony, voice over Internet
7 protocol, or any other technology infrastructure used to
8 transmit voice communications between end users.

9 (b) The Department shall ensure that a committed person
10 and the committed person's correspondents are not charged any
11 fee, surcharge, or cost for mail communication or mail
12 scanning services that exceeds the standard postage rate set
13 by the United States Postal Service. The Department shall not
14 charge the committed person or correspondent any fee,
15 surcharge, or cost for any incoming mail addressed to and
16 received by the committed person, including any material
17 received through mail scanning services. The Department shall
18 not charge the committed person any fee, surcharge, or cost
19 for outgoing mail delivery or mail scanning services that
20 exceeds the postage rate set by the United States Postal
21 Service for any outgoing mail.

22 (c) The Department or any third-party vendor that the
23 Department contracts with shall not impose any fee, surcharge,
24 or cost to the committed person above the United States Postal
25 Service rate for mail communication, including the delivery or
26 scanning of mail.

1 (d) The Department or any third-party vendor that the
2 Department contracts with shall not impose any fee, surcharge,
3 or cost to the committed person above the applicable
4 commercial shipping service rate when a commercial shipping
5 service is utilized for correspondence, including the delivery
6 or scanning of mail.

7 (e) The Department shall not use the provision of voice
8 communication services, mail communication, mail scanning
9 services, or any other communication services to supplant
10 in-person contact visits.

11 (f) The Department shall not receive revenue from the
12 provision of voice communications, mail communication, mail
13 scanning services, or other communication services to a person
14 in custody in any institutions or facilities of the
15 Department.

16 (g) Beginning July 1, 2027, the Department shall annually
17 report to the General Assembly on the status of any voice
18 communication services, mail communication, mail scanning
19 services, and all other communication services. The Department
20 shall post the report on its website. The report shall
21 include:

22 (1) the rates the agency is paying or charging
23 committed persons or community members for any and all
24 services in the contracts; and

25 (2) Department spending on a third-party vendor or
26 vendors for voice communication services, mail

1 communication, mail scanning services, or any other
2 communication services.

3 (h) Notwithstanding Section 3-7-2a of this Code, postage
4 stamps and essential mailing supplies, including envelopes,
5 shall not be subject to the commissary markup authorized under
6 that Section and shall be made available at no more than the
7 Department's actual acquisition cost, rounded to the nearest
8 cent.

9 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
10 becoming law.