

**104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY****State of Illinois****2025 and 2026****SB3386**

Introduced 2/4/2026, by Sen. Elgie R. Sims, Jr.

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

730 ILCS 5/3-7-10 new

Amends the Unified Code of Corrections. Provides that the Department of Corrections shall ensure that a committed person and the committed person's correspondents are not charged any fee, surcharge, or cost for mail communication or mail scanning services that exceed the standard postage rate set by the United States Postal Service. Provides that the Department shall not charge the committed person or correspondent any fee, surcharge, or cost for any incoming mail addressed to and received by the committed person, including any material received through mail scanning services. Provides that the Department shall not charge the committed person any fee, surcharge, or cost for outgoing mail delivery or mail scanning services that exceeds the postage rate set by the United States Postal Service for any outgoing mail. Provides that the Department or any third-party vendor that the Department contracts with, shall not impose any fee, surcharge, or cost to the committed person above the United States Postal Service rate for mail communication, including the delivery or scanning of mail. Provides that the Department shall not use the provision of voice communication services, mail communication, mail scanning services, or any other communication services to supplant in-person contact visits. Provides that the Department shall not receive revenue, directly or indirectly, from the provision of voice communications, mail communication, mail scanning services, or other communication services to a person in custody in any institutions and facilities of the Department. Provides that beginning July 1, 2027, the Department shall annually report to the General Assembly on the status of any communication services contracts and plans to consolidate contracts to maximize purchasing power for voice communication services, mail communication services, and all other communication services. Provides that the Department shall post the report on its website. Effective immediately.

LRB104 16745 RLC 30152 b

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 or other commercial shipping services.

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 exceed the standard postage rate set by
13 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,
24 surcharge, or cost to the committed person above the United
25 States Postal Service rate for mail communication, including
26 the delivery or scanning of mail.

1 (d) The Department shall not use the provision of voice
2 communication services, mail communication, mail scanning
3 services, or any other communication services to supplant
4 in-person contact visits.

5 (e) The Department shall not receive revenue, directly or
6 indirectly, from the provision of voice communications, mail
7 communication, mail scanning services, or other communication
8 services to a person in custody in any institutions and
9 facilities of the Department.

10 (f) Beginning July 1, 2027, the Department shall annually
11 report to the General Assembly on the status of any
12 communication services contracts and plans to consolidate
13 contracts to maximize purchasing power for voice communication
14 services, mail communication services, and all other
15 communication services. The Department shall post the report
16 on its website. The report shall include:

17 (1) the Department's efforts to renegotiate the
18 agency's communication contracts, including the rates the
19 agency is paying or charging committed persons or
20 community members for any and all services in the
21 contracts;

22 (2) a complete and detailed accounting of how funds
23 appropriated by the General Assembly for communication
24 services are spent; and

25 (3) data on usage of all communication services,
26 including monthly call and message volume.

1 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
2 becoming law.