

REFERENCE TITLE: prisoners; communication services; access.

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-sixth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2024

HB 2856

Introduced by
Representative Contreras L

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 31, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 2, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY
ADDING SECTION 31-243; APPROPRIATING MONIES; RELATING TO PRISONERS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:
2 Section 1. Title 31, chapter 2, article 2, Arizona Revised
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 31-243, to read:
4 31-243. Prisoner communication services; access; prohibition
5 A. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE ALL PRISONERS WITH VOICE
6 COMMUNICATION SERVICES AND MAY SUPPLEMENT VOICE COMMUNICATION SERVICES
7 WITH OTHER COMMUNICATION SERVICES, INCLUDING VIDEO COMMUNICATION, EMAIL OR
8 OTHER MESSAGING SERVICES.
9 B. THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT:
10 1. LIMIT A PRISONER'S ACCESS TO VOICE COMMUNICATION SERVICES AND
11 OTHER COMMUNICATION SERVICES AND SHALL MAINTAIN THE SAME LEVEL OF ACCESS
12 AS THE DEPARTMENT ALLOWED BEFORE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION.
13 2. RECEIVE ANY COMMISSIONS FROM VOICE COMMUNICATION SERVICES OR
14 OTHER COMMUNICATION SERVICES USED BY PRISONERS.
15 C. THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT CHARGE PRISONERS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH
16 WHOM A PRISONER COMMUNICATES FOR ANY COMMUNICATION SERVICES BETWEEN EACH
17 OTHER.
18 D. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAINTAIN IN-PERSON VISITS FOR PRISONERS AND
19 MAY NOT USE COMMUNICATION SERVICES TO REPLACE IN-PERSON VISITS.
20 Sec. 2. Appropriation; state department of corrections;
21 exemption
22 A. The sum of \$_____ is appropriated from the state general fund
23 in fiscal year 2024-2025 to the state department of corrections for the
24 purposes of section 31-243, Arizona Revised Statutes, as added by this
25 act.
26 B. The appropriation made in subsection A of this section is exempt
27 from the provisions of section 35-190, Arizona Revised Statutes, relating
28 to lapsing of appropriations.