

**As Introduced**

**135th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2023-2024**

**S. B. No. 333**

**Senators Blessing, Ingram**

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**A BILL**

To enact sections 341.43, 753.34, 5120.052, and 5139.132 of the Revised Code to require voice communication services for inmates, delinquent children, and youthful offenders, and to make an appropriation. 1  
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**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 341.43, 753.34, 5120.052, and 5139.132 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 6  
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**Sec. 341.43.** (A) As used in this section: 8

(1) "County correctional facility" means a county jail, county workhouse, minimum security jail, joint city and county workhouse, municipal-county correctional center, multicounty-municipal correctional center, municipal-county jail or workhouse, or multicounty-municipal jail or workhouse. 9  
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(2) "Voice communication service" and "voice communication device" have the same meanings as in section 5120.052 of the Revised Code. 14  
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(B) Each county correctional facility shall provide inmates confined in the facility with voice communication 17  
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service. A facility may supplement voice communication service 19  
with additional communication services including video 20  
communication and electronic mail or messaging services. 21

(C) Access to voice communication service, and other 22  
supplemental communication services, if applicable, shall not be 23  
limited beyond program participation and routine facility 24  
procedures. 25

(D) Voice communication service, and other supplemental 26  
communication services, if applicable, shall be provided free of 27  
charge to both the person initiating and the person receiving 28  
the communication. 29

(E) Each facility shall maintain a minimum ratio of one 30  
operable voice communication device in each housing or 31  
recreational yard to every ten people housed in the facility, 32  
and a minimum of two voice communication devices in each housing 33  
unit. 34

(F) A facility shall not receive revenue from the 35  
provision of voice communication services, or any other 36  
communication services, to any person confined or housed in the 37  
facility. 38

(G) Voice communication services, or any other 39  
communication service, shall not be used to replace any in- 40  
person visitation program. 41

(H) No state or local agency shall receive revenue from 42  
the provision of voice communication services or any other 43  
communication services to any person confined in a county 44  
correctional facility. 45

(I) Each county correctional facility shall report the 46  
following information within ninety days after the effective 47

date of this section, and within ninety days after the end of 48  
each fiscal year thereafter, to the general assembly: 49

(1) A copy of all contracts for voice communication 50  
services or other supplemental communication services, if 51  
applicable, along with a summary of the rates and fees being 52  
paid by the facility or charged to users for each service 53  
provided through the contracts; 54

(2) A complete and detailed accounting of how 55  
legislatively appropriated funds for voice communication 56  
services or other supplemental communication services, if 57  
applicable, were spent, including spending on expenses 58  
previously covered by commissions; 59

(3) Data on usage of all voice communication services or 60  
other supplemental communication services, if applicable, 61  
including monthly call and message volume. 62

**Sec. 753.34. (A) As used in this section:** 63

(1) "Municipal correctional facility" means a municipal 64  
jail, municipal workhouse, minimum security jail, joint city and 65  
county workhouse, municipal-county correctional center, 66  
multicounty-municipal correctional center, municipal-county jail 67  
or workhouse, or multicounty-municipal jail or workhouse. 68

(2) "Voice communication service" and "voice communication 69  
device" have the same meanings as in section 5120.052 of the 70  
Revised Code. 71

(B) Each municipal correctional facility shall provide 72  
inmates confined in the facility with voice communication 73  
service. A facility may supplement voice communication service 74  
with additional communication services including video 75  
communication and electronic mail or messaging services. 76

(C) Access to voice communication service, and other 77  
supplemental communication services, if applicable, shall not be 78  
limited beyond program participation and routine facility 79  
procedures. 80

(D) Voice communication service, and other supplemental 81  
communication services, if applicable, shall be provided free of 82  
charge to both the person initiating and the person receiving 83  
the communication. 84

(E) Each facility shall maintain a minimum ratio of one 85  
operable voice communication device in each housing or 86  
recreational yard to every ten people housed in the facility, 87  
and a minimum of two voice communication devices in each housing 88  
unit. 89

(F) A facility shall not receive revenue from the 90  
provision of voice communication services, or any other 91  
communication services, to any person confined or housed in the 92  
facility. 93

(G) Voice communication services, or any other 94  
communication service, shall not be used to replace any in- 95  
person visitation program. 96

(H) No state or local agency shall receive revenue from 97  
the provision of voice communication services or any other 98  
communication services to any person confined in a municipal 99  
correctional facility. 100

(I) Each municipal correctional facility shall report the 101  
following information within ninety days after the effective 102  
date of this section, and within ninety days after the end of 103  
each fiscal year thereafter, to the general assembly: 104

(1) A copy of all contracts for voice communication 105

services or other supplemental communication services, if 106  
applicable, along with a summary of the rates and fees being 107  
paid by the facility or charged to users for each service 108  
provided through the contracts; 109

(2) A complete and detailed accounting of how 110  
legislatively appropriated funds for voice communication 111  
services or other supplemental communication services, if 112  
applicable, were spent, including spending on expenses 113  
previously covered by commissions; 114

(3) Data on usage of all voice communication services or 115  
other supplemental communication services, if applicable, 116  
including monthly call and message volume. 117

**Sec. 5120.052. (A) As used in this section:** 118

(1) "Private correctional facility" has the same meaning 119  
as in section 9.08 of the Revised Code. 120

(2) "State correctional institution" has the same meaning 121  
as in section 2967.01 of the Revised Code, and includes private 122  
correctional facilities. 123

(3) "Voice communication service" means real-time, audio- 124  
only communication services. 125

(4) "Voice communication device" means a device that 126  
allows access to a voice communication service. 127

(B) Every state correctional institution shall provide 128  
inmates confined in the institution with voice communication 129  
service. An institution may supplement voice communication 130  
service with additional communication services including video 131  
communication and electronic mail or messaging services. 132

(C) Access to voice communication service, and other 133

supplemental communication services, if applicable, shall not be 134  
limited beyond program participation and routine facility 135  
procedures. 136

(D) Voice communication service, and other supplemental 137  
communication services, if applicable, shall be provided free of 138  
charge to both the person initiating and the person receiving 139  
the communication. 140

(E) Each institution shall maintain a minimum ratio of one 141  
operable voice communication device in each housing or 142  
recreational yard to every ten people housed in the institution, 143  
and a minimum of two voice communication devices in each housing 144  
unit. 145

(F) An institution shall not receive revenue from the 146  
provision of voice communication services, or any other 147  
communication services, to any person confined or housed in the 148  
institution. 149

(G) Voice communication services, or any other 150  
communication service, shall not be used to replace any in- 151  
person visitation program. 152

(H) No state or local agency shall receive revenue from 153  
the provision of voice communication services or any other 154  
communication services to any person confined in a state 155  
correctional institution. 156

(I) Each state correctional facility shall report the 157  
following information within ninety days after the effective 158  
date of this section, and within ninety days after the end of 159  
each fiscal year thereafter, to the general assembly: 160

(1) A copy of all contracts for voice communication 161  
services or other supplemental communication services, if 162

applicable, along with a summary of the rates and fees being 163  
paid by the facility or charged to users for each service 164  
provided through the contracts; 165

(2) A complete and detailed accounting of how 166  
legislatively appropriated funds for voice communication 167  
services or other supplemental communication services, if 168  
applicable, were spent, including spending on expenses 169  
previously covered by commissions; 170

(3) Data on usage of all voice communication services or 171  
other supplemental communication services, if applicable, 172  
including monthly call and message volume. 173

**Sec. 5139.132. (A) As used in this section:** 174

(1) "Institution" has the same meaning as in section 175  
5139.01 of the Revised Code. 176

(2) "Voice communication service" and "voice communication 177  
device" have the same meanings as in section 5120.052 of the 178  
Revised Code. 179

(B) Every institution shall provide children committed to 180  
the department of youth services with voice communication 181  
service. An institution may supplement voice communication 182  
service with additional communication services including video 183  
communication and electronic mail or messaging services. 184

(C) Access to voice communication service, and other 185  
supplemental communication services, if applicable, shall not be 186  
limited beyond program participation and routine facility 187  
procedures. 188

(D) Voice communication service, and other supplemental 189  
communication services, if applicable, shall be provided free of 190

charge to both the person initiating and the person receiving 191  
the communication. 192

(E) Each institution shall maintain a minimum ratio of one 193  
operable voice communication device in each housing or 194  
recreational yard to every ten children housed in the 195  
institution, and a minimum of two voice communication devices in 196  
each housing unit. 197

(F) An institution shall not receive revenue from the 198  
provision of voice communication services, or any other 199  
communication services, to any child confined or housed in the 200  
institution. 201

(G) Voice communication services, or any other 202  
communication service, shall not be used to replace any in- 203  
person visitation program. 204

(H) No state or local agency shall receive revenue from 205  
the provision of voice communication services or any other 206  
communication services to any child committed to the department 207  
of youth services. 208

(I) Each institution shall report the following 209  
information within ninety days after the effective date of this 210  
section, and within ninety days after the end of each fiscal 211  
year thereafter, to the general assembly: 212

(1) A copy of all contracts for voice communication 213  
services or other supplemental communication services, if 214  
applicable, along with a summary of the rates and fees being 215  
paid by the facility or charged to users for each service 216  
provided through the contracts; 217

(2) A complete and detailed accounting of how 218  
legislatively appropriated funds for voice communication 219



services or other supplemental communication services, if 220  
applicable, were spent, including spending on expenses 221  
previously covered by commissions; 222

(3) Data on usage of all voice communication services or 223  
other supplemental communication services, if applicable, 224  
including monthly call and message volume. 225

**Section 2.** All items in this act are hereby appropriated 226  
as designated out of any moneys in the state treasury to the 227  
credit of the designated fund. For all operating appropriations 228  
made in this act, those in the first column are for fiscal year 229  
2024 and those in the second column are for fiscal year 2025. 230  
The operating appropriations made in this act are in addition to 231  
any other operating appropriations made for these fiscal years. 232

**Section 3.** 233

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A	DRC DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION AND CORRECTION				
B	General Revenue Fund				
C	GRF	501410	Communication Services	\$0	\$13,100,000
D	TOTAL GRF General Revenue Fund			\$0	\$13,100,000
E	TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS			\$0	\$13,100,000

COMMUNICATION SERVICES 235

The foregoing appropriation item 501410, Communication 236  
Services, shall be used by the Department of Rehabilitation and 237

Correction for the following purposes:	238
(1) To provide inmates confined in a state correctional institution with voice communication service required by section 5120.052 of the Revised Code and, if applicable, the cost of additional communication services including video communication and electronic mail or messaging services;	239 240 241 242 243
(2) To reimburse county and municipal correctional facilities for costs incurred to provide confined inmates with voice communication service required by sections 341.43 and 753.34 of the Revised Code and, if applicable, the costs of additional communication services including video communication and electronic mail or messaging services;	244 245 246 247 248 249
(3) To reimburse the Department of Youth Services institutions for costs incurred to provide any child confined or housed in the institution with voice communication service required by section 5139.132 of the Revised Code and, if applicable, the costs of additional communication services including video communication and electronic mail or messaging services.	250 251 252 253 254 255 256
<b>Section 4.</b> Within the limits set forth in this act, the Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation made in this act, and shall determine the manner in which appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures from operating appropriations contained in this act shall be accounted for as though made in, and are subject to all applicable provisions of, H.B. 33 of the 135th General Assembly.	257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264