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H.B. 397
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Passed by the House

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Deeter and Johnson

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SUMMARY

- Expands the allowable uses of jail commissary funds profits.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Allowable commissary fund uses

The bill expands the allowable uses of jail commissary funds profits for all of the following: (1) recreation and programming services, (2) medication, (3) salary and benefits, (4) investigation of staff, (5) technology, and (6) staff training.¹

Supplies and equipment: under continuing law, the profits may be used to purchase supplies and equipment.

Recreation and programming services: under the bill, the profits may be used to provide life skills training, recreation, and education or treatment and programming services, or both, for the benefit of the persons in the jail. Under current law, the profits may be used to provide life skills and education or treatment services, or both, for the benefit of persons incarcerated in jail.²

Medication: under the bill, the profits may be used to purchase medication in relation to treatment and programming.³

Salary and benefits: under the bill, the profits may be used to pay salary and benefits, in part or in whole, for employees of the sheriff who work in or are employed for the purpose of providing service to the commissary. Under current law, the profits may be used to pay salary

¹ R.C. 341.25(B)(3).

² R.C. 341.25(B)(3)(a).

³ R.C. 341.25(B)(3)(b).

and benefits for employees of the sheriff who work in or are employed for the purpose of providing service to the commissary.

Investigation of staff: under the bill, profits may be used to investigate allegations of staff misconduct, illegal conveyance of contraband, or sexual abuse within the facility.⁴

Technology: under the bill, the profits may be used to purchase technology and tools designed to prevent contraband from entering the jail as well as technology necessary for the general safety of the jail facility if the purchased items exceed the minimum required standards.⁵

Construction to provide medical or mental health services: under continuing law, the profits may be used for construction or renovation of a jail facility to provide medical or mental health services.⁶

Staff training: under the bill, the profits may be used to pay for advanced staff training of jail personnel in excess of state mandated training for the benefit of persons incarcerated in jail.⁷

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	07-21-25
Reported, H. Local Government	11-18-25
Passed House (75-12)	11-19-25

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⁴ R.C. 341.25(B)(3)(c).

⁵ R.C. 341.25(B)(3)(d).

⁶ R.C. 341.25(B)(3)(e).

⁷ R.C. 341.25(B)(3)(f).