

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

S.F. No. 666

(SENATE AUTHORS: OUMOU VERBETEN, Latz and Abeler)		
DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
01/27/2025	186	Introduction and first reading Referred to Judiciary and Public Safety
03/24/2025	994	Comm report: To pass and re-referred to Health and Human Services
03/27/2025		Withdrawn and re-referred to Human Services

1.1

A bill for an act

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relating to public safety; providing for human services; modifying the duties of

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certain facilities that confine people relating to phone calls and other communication

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services; specifying duties of certain direct care and treatment programs relating

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to phone calls and other communications; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024,

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section 241.252; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter

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246.

1.8

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.9

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 241.252, is amended to read:

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241.252 FREE COMMUNICATION SERVICES FOR ~~INCARCERATED~~

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CONFINED PERSONS.

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Subdivision 1. **Free communication services.** (a) A ~~state adult or juvenile~~ facility ~~under~~

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~~the control of the commissioner of corrections~~ must provide ~~incarcerated~~ confined persons

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with voice communication services. A facility may supplement voice communication services

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with other communication services, including but not limited to video communication and

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email or electronic messaging services. A facility must at least continue to offer the services

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the facility offered as of January 1, 2023.

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(b) To the extent that voice or other communication services are provided, which must

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not be limited beyond program participation and routine facility policies and procedures,

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neither the individual initiating the communication nor the individual receiving the

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communication must be charged for the service.

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Subd. 2. ~~Voice~~ **Communication services restrictions.** Nothing in this section allows

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~~an incarcerated~~ a confined person to violate an active protection order, harassment restraining

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order, or other no-contact order or directive.

Subd. 3. **State Revenue prohibited.** ~~A state~~ An agency operating a facility must not receive revenue from the provision of voice communication services or any other communication services under this section, ~~but an agency may collect commissions on communication services provided under any contract entered into before January 1, 2023.~~

Subd. 4. **Visitation programs.** (a) Facilities shall maintain in-person visits for ~~incarcerated~~ confined persons, ~~and~~ Communication services, including video calls, must not be used to replace a facility's in-person visitation program or be counted toward a confined person's in-person visitation limit.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), the ~~commissioner~~ agency operating the facility may waive the in-person visitation program requirement under this subdivision if there is:

(1) a declared emergency under section 12.31; or

(2) a local-, state-, or federal-declared natural disaster.

Subd. 5. **Reporting.** (a) The Department of Corrections must include the following information covering the previous calendar year in its annual performance report required under section 241.016:

(1) ~~its~~ the status of all the agency's communication contracts; efforts to renegotiate the agency's communication contracts, including the rates the agency is paying or charging ~~incarcerated~~ confined people or community members for any and all services in the contracts; and plans to consolidate the agency's communication contracts to maximize purchasing power;

(2) a complete and detailed accounting of how ~~legislatively~~ appropriated funds for communication services are spent, including spending on expenses previously covered by commissions; and

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

(b) By January 15 of each year, an agency other than the Department of Corrections that operates a facility must report the information described in paragraph (a) to the commissioner of corrections. By March 15 of each year, the commissioner shall submit a summary of the information submitted under this paragraph to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees having jurisdiction over corrections and human services policy and finance.

Subd. 6. **Definitions.** For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given:

(1) "voice communications" means real-time, audio-only communication services, namely phone calls made over wireline telephony, voice over Internet protocol, or any other technology infrastructure; ~~and~~

(2) "other communication services" means communication services other than voice communications, including but not limited to video calls and electronic messages; and

(3) "facility" means a state adult or juvenile correctional facility under the control of the commissioner of corrections, or any facility, setting, or program owned, operated, or under the programmatic or fiscal control of the commissioner of human services or the Direct Care and Treatment executive board.

Sec. 2. **[246.0142] FREE COMMUNICATION SERVICES FOR PATIENTS AND CLIENTS.**

Subdivision 1. **Free communication services.** The commissioner of human services and the Direct Care and Treatment executive board and all facilities, settings, and programs owned, operated, or under the programmatic or fiscal control of the commissioner of human services or the Direct Care and Treatment executive board are subject to section 241.252. The commissioner and executive board must not include the cost of voice or other communication services in the cost of care as defined under section 246.50 or 246B.01.

Subd. 2. **Communication service restrictions.** Notwithstanding section 241.252, subdivisions 2 and 4, nothing in this section entitles a civilly committed person to communication services restricted or limited under section 253B.03, subdivision 3, or 253D.19.