STATE OF NEW YORK

2266

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 16, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. EPSTEIN, SIMON, SEAWRIGHT, KELLES, GONZALEZ-ROJAS, FORREST, JACKSON, DAVILA, GIBBS, TAPIA, LEVENBERG, BURDICK, REYES, SHRESTHA, MAMDANI, CHANDLER-WATERMAN, CUNNINGHAM, RAGA, WALKER, SEPTIMO, BORES, MEEKS, SHIMSKY, BICHOTTE HERMELYN, ZACCARO, PAULIN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Correction

AN ACT to amend the correction law, in relation to providing voice communication services to incarcerated individuals at no cost; and to repeal section 623 of the correction law related thereto

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 623 of the correction law is REPEALED and a new section 623 is added to read as follows:

§ 623. Communication with people confined to correctional facilities. 1. State agencies charged with the operation and management of state prisons and youth residential placements or detention centers shall provide persons in their custody and confined in a correctional or detention facility with voice communication service. Such state agencies may supplement voice communication service with other communication services, including, but not limited to, video communication and electronic mail or messaging services. To the extent that such voice communication service or any other communication service is provided, which shall not be limited beyond program participation and routine facility procedures, each such service shall be provided free of charge to the person initiating and the person receiving the communication.

2. No state agency shall receive revenue from the provision of voice communication services or any other communication services to any person confined in a state correctional facility or youth residential placement or detention center.

3. State agencies charged with the operation and management of state prisons and youth residential placements or detention centers shall maintain in-person visits for persons in their custody and confined in

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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their facilities. Communications services shall not be used to replace any in-person visit program.

§ 2. This act shall take effect April 1, 2026 and shall apply to any new or renewal contract for voice communication services for incarcerated individuals or other advanced communication services entered into on or after such date and provided further that any new or renewal contract for voice communication services for incarcerated individuals or other advanced communication services entered into prior to April 1, 2026 shall not run past March 31, 2026.