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CS HOUSE BILL 35

“An Act relating to use and possession of electronic devices by prisoners.”

EXPLANATION OF CHANGES

Version N to Version T

(Updated 5.5.25)

In the Committee Substitute for HB 35, several sections have been modified from its original version, N, which was identical to companion measure SB 19. These modifications were intended to clarify the justifications behind allowable electronic device use. In CS HB 35 Version T, use of electronic devices is not restricted only for access relating to rehabilitation, or compliance with reentry and case plans as it was in Version N. Otherwise, CS HB 35 Version T remains unchanged.

CS HB 35 Version T includes five revisions from Version N (identical to SB 19):

- “TV-MA” is removed from the list of prohibited ratings (page 2, line 14-15).
- Specifies compliance with a reentry plan or case plan as one of the allowable uses. This clarifies that prisoner’s rehabilitation is included as one of the other allowable uses along with many others, such as access to legal reference materials, telehealth services, and visitation opportunities, etc.
- “Only” (page 3, line 13) is removed in order to clarify intent and broaden acceptable reasons for electronic device usage.
- “Or as a substitution for in-person visitation, receiving mail, receiving medical services, or other in-person communication” is added to page 3, line 16 of Version T. This change guarantees that in-person services are supplemented, not supplanted, by electronic devices.
- Section 2 of Version N (page 3, lines 21 – 27) is removed as it would be redundant given the previous change.