



State of Wisconsin
2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4670/1
MJW:emw&skw

2023 ASSEMBLY BILL 759

December 6, 2023 - Introduced by Representatives EMERSON, CLANCY, MADISON, HONG, CONLEY, JOERS, OHNSTAD, SHELTON, PALMERI, SINICKI, JACOBSON and HAYWOOD, cosponsored by Senators ROYS, HESSELBEIN, TAYLOR, L. JOHNSON and SPREITZER. Referred to Committee on Corrections.

1 **AN ACT** *to create* 20.410 (1) (bp) and 302.092 of the statutes; **relating to:**
2 technology service access by inmates of state correctional institutions and
3 county jails and houses of correction and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill provides that inmates of a state correctional institution or county jail or house of correction be allowed access to email, live audiovisual calling services, and electronic media services if they have a personal computing device. Under the bill, the Department of Corrections or the sheriff or person in charge of a county jail or house of correction may charge the inmate for the services, but the charge to the inmate may not exceed the cost charged to DOC or the county by the service provider for such services, and each inmate must be provided a weekly stipend of \$17.50 to purchase such services.

This bill provides to DOC \$13,213,800 in the 2023-24 fiscal year and \$19,820,700 in the 2024-25 fiscal year to pay for DOC inmate technology access stipends and \$3,033,300 in the 2023-24 fiscal year and \$4,550,000 in the 2024-25 fiscal year to reimburse counties for county jail or house of correction inmate technology access stipends.

For further information see the state and local fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

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1 **SECTION 1.** 20.005 (3) (schedule) of the statutes: at the appropriate place, insert
2 the following amounts for the purposes indicated:

		2023-24		2024-25
20.410 Corrections, department of				
(1) ADULT CORRECTIONAL SERVICES				
(bp) Reimbursement of counties for				
inmate technology access				
stipends				
	GPR	A	\$3,033,300	\$4,550,000

8 **SECTION 2.** 20.410 (1) (bp) of the statutes is created to read:

9 20.410 (1) (bp) *Reimbursement of counties for inmate technology access*
10 *stipends.* The amounts in the schedule for payments to counties under s. 302.092 (2)
11 (d) for county jail or house of correction inmate technology access stipends.

12 **SECTION 3.** 302.092 of the statutes is created to read:

13 **302.092 Technology service access by inmates of state correctional**
14 **institutions and county jails or houses of correction.** (1) (a) The department
15 shall ensure that each inmate of a state correctional institution is allowed to access
16 email, live audiovisual calling services, and electronic media services if the inmate
17 has a personal computing device.

18 (b) The department may impose a charge for accessing email, live audiovisual
19 calling services, and electronic media services under par. (a), but the department
20 may not charge an inmate more than the cost charged to the department by the
21 service provider for such services.

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1 (c) The department shall provide to each inmate in a state correctional
2 institution a weekly technology access stipend of \$17.50 to purchase services under
3 par. (a).

4 **(2)** (a) The sheriff or person in charge of a county jail or house of correction shall
5 ensure that each inmate of the county jail or house of correction is allowed to access
6 email, live audiovisual calling services, and electronic media services if the inmate
7 has a personal computing device.

8 (b) The sheriff or person in charge of a county jail or house of correction may
9 impose a charge for accessing email, live audiovisual calling services, and electronic
10 media services under par. (a), but the sheriff or person in charge of the county jail or
11 house of correction may not charge an inmate more than the cost charged to the
12 county by the service provider for such services.

13 (c) The sheriff or person in charge of a county jail or house of correction shall
14 ensure that each inmate in the county jail or house of correction is provided a weekly
15 technology access stipend of \$17.50 to purchase services under par. (a).

16 (d) Annually, a county board may apply to the department for reimbursement
17 of its costs for inmate technology access stipends under par. (c) for inmates in the
18 county jail or house of correction. After verification by the department, the
19 department shall reimburse the county its actual costs for such technology access
20 stipends from the appropriation under s. 20.410 (1) (bp). If the amounts provided
21 under s. 20.410 (1) (bp) for any fiscal year are insufficient to provide complete
22 reimbursement under this paragraph, the department shall establish a system to
23 prorate the reimbursements.

24 **SECTION 4. Fiscal changes.**

