

HB 70 -- CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

SPONSOR: Dinkins

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Corrections and Public Institutions by a vote of 8 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 9 to 0.

Currently, it is unlawful to possess, deliver, deposit, or conceal certain items in a prison or jail. This bill adds two-way telecommunications devices and their component parts to the list of prohibited items.

This bill provides that the prohibition on telecommunications devices does not apply to law enforcement officers lawfully engaged in their duties or any person who is authorized to use such a device in the facility. However, the bill prohibits any such person from knowingly delivering, attempting to deliver, or depositing a two-way telecommunications device or its component parts to any inmate, prisoner, or detainee. The bill specifies persons to whom the provisions of the bill do not apply.

This bill is similar to HB 2632 (2018).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this adds cell phones to the list of items prohibited in prisons. In the last three years, there were 80 cell phones found in the possession of offenders, and they were active phones. Not all cell phones are caught during metal detector screenings.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dinkins and the Missouri Department of Corrections.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.