

HCS HB 1142 -- HALFWAY HOUSE TELEPHONE SERVICE

SPONSOR: Davis

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Criminal Justice by a vote of 8 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1142.

This bill specifies that no correctional center, jail, or other party shall charge an offender in a correctional center or an inmate in a jail more than \$.20 for a domestic phone call, including fees and any per-minute rate.

The bill also prohibits the Department of Corrections from requiring the use of a specific landline telephone service for offenders on house arrest or in halfway houses. Halfway houses in a working relationship with the Department or with the Federal Bureau of Prisons are also prohibited from imposing rules requiring that offenders use a specific provider of landline telephone service. Such halfway houses are also prohibited from requiring use of a landline service unless landline service is essential for the type of monitoring ordered by a judge.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill would prohibit halfway houses from requiring offenders to use a specific company for a landline telephone service. There was a story presented of a person who already had a landline phone service but was required to have a landline with a different company so the person had to have two landlines. And the halfway house continued to contact the person on his original phone line and never once contacted the person on the second landline he was required to get. There is no clear rationale for requiring this.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Davis; and Arnie C. Dienoff.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the Missouri Department of Corrections does not require a specific provider for electronic monitoring. It does require a landline for electronic monitoring but not necessarily with a specific provider. Maybe if it is a halfway house for which the Department has a contract with Federal

Bureau of Prisons.

Testifying on the bill was Adam Albach, Department of Corrections.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.