

By: Wu

H.B. No. 2580

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to providing free access to telephone services for persons confined in county jail pending trial.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 351, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Section 351.0135 to read as follows:

Sec. 351.0135. ACCESS TO TELEPHONE SERVICES FOR PERSONS CONFINED PENDING TRIAL. (a) A county jail must provide each arrested person who is confined in the county jail pending trial with access to domestic telephone services at no cost to the person or the party receiving the telephone call.

(b) The sheriff of each county jail shall adopt a policy governing the use of telephone services under this section. The policy may not unduly restrict calling patterns or volume and must allow for an average monthly call usage rate of eight calls, with each call having an average duration of not less than 10 minutes, per arrested person.

SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2019, the sheriff of each county jail shall adopt the policy required by Section 351.0135, Local Government Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.