

By: Garcia

H.B. No. 3375

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to access to communication services for inmates and state jail defendants.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 493, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 493.035 to read as follows:

Sec. 493.035. ACCESS TO COMMUNICATION SERVICES FOR OFFENDERS. (a) In this section, "offender" means an inmate or state jail defendant confined in a facility operated by or under contract with the department.

(b) The department shall adopt a policy regarding access by offenders to communication services. The policy:

(1) must allow an offender to make domestic telephone calls with a duration of up to 30 minutes per call to persons on the offender's approved calling list at no cost to the offender or the person receiving the call;

(2) may not limit the total number of telephone calls that are at no cost under Subdivision (1); and

(3) if the offender is eligible for remote video visitation, must provide that the visit is at no cost to the offender or the person visiting the offender.

SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2023, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice shall adopt the policy required by Section 493.035, Government Code, as added by this Act.

1           SECTION 3.   This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.