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H.B. 461
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Upchurch

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SUMMARY

- Requires all county and municipal correctional facilities and state correctional institutions to provide deaf, hard of hearing, or severely speech impaired inmates access to teletypewriters at no cost.
- Prohibits all county and municipal correctional facilities and state correctional institutions from denying an inmate who is deaf, hard of hearing, or severely speech impaired access to a teletypewriter.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Providing access to teletypewriters

The bill requires that each county and municipal correctional facility and state correctional institution provide every inmate who is deaf, hard of hearing, or severely speech impaired access to a teletypewriter at no cost to the inmate.¹ The bill defines “county correctional facility,” “municipal correctional facility,” “state correctional institution,” and “teletypewriter” or “TTY” for purposes of its provisions (see “**Definitions**” below).

The bill prohibits each county and municipal correctional facility and each state correctional institution from denying an inmate who is deaf, hard of hearing, or severely speech impaired access to a teletypewriter.²

Definitions

As used in the bill:

¹ R.C. 341.193(B), 753.022(B), and 5120.052(B).

² R.C. 341.193(C), 753.022(C), and 5120.052(C).

“County correctional facility” means a county jail, county workhouse, minimum security jail, joint city and county workhouse, municipal-county correctional center, multicounty-municipal correctional center, municipal-county jail or workhouse, or multicounty-municipal jail or workhouse.³

“Municipal correctional facility” means a municipal jail, municipal workhouse, minimum security jail, joint city and county workhouse, municipal-county correctional center, multicounty-municipal correctional center, municipal-county jail or workhouse, or multicounty-municipal jail or workhouse.⁴

“State correctional institution” means any institution or facility that is operated by the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and that is used for the custody, care, or treatment of criminal, delinquent, or psychologically or psychiatrically disturbed offenders.⁵

“Teletypewriter” or **“TTY”** means a communication device used by people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have severe speech impairment.⁶

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	09-17-25

ANHB0461IN-136/sb

³ R.C. 341.193(A)(1).

⁴ R.C. 753.022(A)(1).

⁵ R.C. 5120.052(A)(1) and 2967.01(A), not in the bill.

⁶ R.C. 341.193(A)(2), 753.022(A)(2), and 5120.052(A)(2).