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H.361

Introduced by Representatives Rachelson of Burlington, Burditt of West
Rutland, Burke of Brattleboro, Chase of Colchester, Christensen
of Weathersfield, Cina of Burlington, Colburn of Burlington,
Cordes of Lincoln, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Gonzalez of
Winooski, Hashim of Dummerston, LaLonde of South
Burlington, Pajala of Londonderry, Patt of Worcester, and
Squirrell of Underhill

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Corrections; correctional facilities; commissary; telecommunications

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require that
commissary and telecommunications prices in a State correctional facility are
set at fair market value as compared to products and telecommunications
services sold in the State outside of the correctional facility.

An act relating to setting commissary and telecommunications prices in
State correctional facilities

1 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

2 Sec. 1. 28 V.S.A. § 802a is amended to read:

3 § 802a. TELEPHONE USE; DEBIT AND COLLECT CALL SYSTEMS

4 (a) Upon admittance to a correctional facility, the inmate shall within
5 24 hours be allowed access to a telephone for outgoing telephone calls at the
6 expense of the inmate.

7 * * *

8 ~~(d) Any contract to provide telephone services to inmates in state~~
9 ~~correctional facilities shall be negotiated and awarded in a manner that~~
10 ~~provides for the lowest reasonable cost to inmates, to their families, and to~~
11 ~~others communicating with inmates. [Repealed.]~~

12 Sec. 2. COMMISSARY; TELECOMMUNICATIONS; COST

13 (a) Any contract to provide commissary services to inmates in State
14 correctional facilities shall be negotiated and awarded in a manner that
15 provides that prices shall be set so as not to exceed the fair market value for
16 comparable products sold in the community where the facility is located.

17 (b) Any contract to provide telecommunications services to inmates,
18 including telephone and Internet services, shall be negotiated and awarded in a
19 manner that provides that prices shall be set so as not to exceed the fair market
20 value for comparable services sold in the community where the facility is
21 located.

- 1 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE
- 2 This act shall take effect on passage.