

HB 2632 -- CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

SPONSOR: Dinkins

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Corrections and Public Institutions by a vote of 6 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Legislative Oversight Committee by a vote of 10 to 1.

Currently, it is a crime to possess, deliver, deposit, or conceal certain items in a prison or jail. This bill adds two-way telecommunications devices and their component parts to the list of prohibited items.

This bill provides that the prohibition on telecommunications devices does not apply to law enforcement officers lawfully engaged in their duties or any person who is authorized to use such a device in the facility. However, the bill prohibits any such person from knowingly delivering, attempting to deliver, or depositing a two-way telecommunications device or its component parts to any inmate, prisoner, or detainee. The bill specifies persons to whom the provisions of the bill do not apply.

This bill is the same as HB 2566 (2018) and similar to HB 207 (2017).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this just adds two-way communication devices to what's already not allowed in prisons. Currently, prisons can only issue conduct violations if individuals are caught with a phone or a sim card. This gives them more of an ability to penalize them. This legislation has been a long-standing priority of the Department of Corrections.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dinkins and Department of Corrections.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.