Department of Planning and Budget
2025 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

PUBLISHED: 1/31/2025 9:51 AM **ORIGINAL**

Bill Number: SB1039 **Patron:** Pekarsky
Bill Title: Department of Corrections; State Board of Local and Regional Jails; policies on inmate participation in telehealth.

Bill Summary: Requires the Department of Corrections and the State Board of Local and Regional Jails to develop and implement policies for the accommodation in local, regional, state, and community correctional facilities of inmate participation in telehealth appointments, which shall include designating a private space for such telehealth appointments to occur. The bill requires the Department and the State Board to provide an update to the Joint Commission on Health Care by October 1, 2025, on (i) the status of the policies for the accommodation of inmate participation in telehealth appointments required to be developed and implemented pursuant to the provisions of this act; (ii) opportunities to expand telehealth programs in local, regional, state, and community correctional facilities; and (iii) recommended strategies to reduce gaps in or barriers to telehealth service delivery in such correctional facilities. This bill is a recommendation of the Joint Commission on Health Care.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No **Items Impacted:** N/A
Explanation: N/A

Fiscal Summary:

According to the Department of Corrections (DOC), this bill is not expected to have a fiscal impact on the operation on prisons or jails.

Fiscal Analysis:

DOC's Telehealth Project Manager (PM) is paid using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Per DOC, the ARPA funds for this position will run out on December 21, 2026. The position is not funded to continue once the ARPA funds are gone. DOC reports it will evaluate the possibility of requesting general fund support for the position as it gets closer to the budget planning process.

Other: None