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## OLR Bill Analysis

### sSB 476

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING VISITATION POLICIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION AND THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS HELD IN TRUST BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION TO PERSONS WHO WERE FORMERLY INCARCERATED.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Correction (DOC) commissioner to allow anyone confined in a correctional facility and housed with the facility's general population to have at least three in-person visits per week. As under existing law, the commissioner cannot replace in-person visits by providing voice communication service or any other communication service to individuals in the commissioner's custody and confined in a correctional facility who are eligible to receive the visits.

The bill also requires the DOC commissioner to disburse the remaining balance in a person's Inmate Trust Fund account upon release and allows the department to do so by cash, a check, or a prepaid device (card, code, or other means of access to a consumer's account held by a financial institution or other financial service provider). DOC may only disburse funds by a prepaid device if it provides at least one alternative option of receiving the funds (cash or check). If DOC disburses funds by a prepaid device, the bill prohibits the department and the prepaid device issuer from charging the formerly incarcerated person a fee or causing a fee to be charged.

In situations where DOC cannot make the disbursement upon a person's release because the department was not informed of the release date at least two weeks in advance, DOC must get the incarcerated person's mailing address before, or at the time of, his or her release and mail the disbursement to the person. It must be mailed within two weeks after the person's release by U.S. mail to the provided mailing

address.

It also makes minor changes to remove an obsolete date.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the provision on the Inmate Trust Fund account balance disbursement is effective July 1, 2026.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24 Nay 12 (03/24/2026)