

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

*An Act to amend and reenact § 53.1-127.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to electronic visitation and messaging with prisoners in local correctional facilities.*

[H 2308]

Approved

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 53.1-127.2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 53.1-127.2. Fees for electronic visitation and messaging with prisoners in local correctional facilities.**

Each sheriff or jail superintendent who operates a correctional facility that utilizes an electronic visitation system or electronic messaging system, *including Voice-over-Internet Protocol technology and web-based communication systems*, for communication between prisoners and third parties is authorized to provide for the establishment and collection of a fee for the system utilized. ~~The fee shall not exceed the actual costs of establishing and operating such a system and the proceeds may not be used for any purpose other than to offset the costs of establishing and operating a system~~ *However, no fee shall be charged for communication between prisoners and third parties within any local correctional facility or appurtenance thereto operated or controlled by the sheriff or jail superintendent.*

This section does not apply to telephonic communication systems or to electronic video and audio communication systems used in judicial proceedings.