

Amendment No. 320

Senate Amendment to Senate Bill No. 498

(BDR 58-1097)

Proposed by: Senate Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy**Amends:** Summary: No Title: Yes Preamble: No Joint Sponsorship: No Digest: Yes

ASSEMBLY ACTION				Initial and Date	SENATE ACTION				Initial and Date
Adopted	☐	Lost	☐	_____	Adopted	☐	Lost	☐	_____
Concurred In	☐	Not	☐	_____	Concurred In	☐	Not	☐	_____
Receded	☐	Not	☐	_____	Receded	☐	Not	☐	_____

EXPLANATION: Matter in (1) *blue bold italics* is new language in the original bill; (2) *green bold italic underlining* is new language proposed in this amendment; (3) ~~red strikethrough~~ is deleted language in the original bill; (4) ~~purple double strikethrough~~ is language proposed to be deleted in this amendment; (5) orange double underlining is deleted language in the original bill that is proposed to be retained in this amendment; and (6) *green bold underlining* is newly added transitory language.

VMS/DY



Date: 4/21/2013

S.B. No. 498—Revises provisions relating to telecommunications. (BDR 58-1097)



SENATE BILL NO. 498—COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, LABOR AND ENERGY

MARCH 25, 2013

Referred to Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to telecommunications. (BDR 58-1097)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to telecommunication services; revising provisions relating to telecommunications; requiring the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada to establish certain procedures for contracting with an independent administrator for purposes relating to certain telephone services; **requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to create and maintain a database of customers eligible for certain telephone services; authorizing certain telecommunication providers to access the database;** repealing certain provisions relating to telecommunication providers; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law requires the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada to regulate public utilities that provide telecommunication service to the public. (Chapter 704 of NRS) Existing law also provides certain rights and obligations to all telecommunication providers. (NRS 704.040-704.060) **Section 1** of this bill requires the Commission to establish by regulation certain procedures for contracting with an independent administrator who will certify or recertify the eligibility of customers for lifeline service, a Federal Government benefit program that provides discounts on monthly telephone service for eligible low-income customers.

Section 2 of this bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to create and maintain a database of customers who are eligible for lifeline service and authorizes certain telecommunication providers to access the database for the exclusive purpose of determining or verifying customer eligibility.

Existing law requires that the Department of Health and Human Services provide each eligible telecommunication provider with a list of eligible customers, as determined by criteria adopted by the Commission or the Federal Communications Commission. (NRS 707.470) Existing law also requires that an eligible telecommunication provider notify an eligible customer that he or she will receive lifeline or link up services unless the eligible customer specifically declines to receive the services. (NRS 707.480) **Section 4** of this bill repeals these requirements.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 704.040 is hereby amended to read as follows:

704.040 1. Every public utility shall furnish reasonably adequate service and facilities. Subject to the provisions of subsection 3, the charges made for any service rendered or to be rendered, or for any service in connection therewith or incidental thereto, must be just and reasonable.

2. Every unjust and unreasonable charge for service of a public utility is unlawful.

3. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 704.68861 to 704.68887, inclusive:

(a) A competitive supplier is exempt from any provision of this chapter governing the rates, prices, terms and conditions of any telecommunication service.

(b) A small-scale provider of last resort is subject to the provisions of this chapter, NRS 427A.797 and chapter 707 of NRS.

4. All telecommunication providers which offer the same or similar service must be subject to fair and impartial regulation, to promote adequate, economical and efficient service.

5. To maintain the availability of telephone service in accordance with the regulations adopted pursuant to NRS 704.6873, the Commission shall provide for the levy and collection of a uniform and equitable assessment, in an amount determined by the Commission, from all persons furnishing intrastate telecommunication service or the functional equivalent of such service through any form of telephony technology, unless the levy and collection of the assessment with regard to a particular form of technology is prohibited by federal law. Assessments levied and collected pursuant to this subsection must be maintained in a separate fund established by the Commission. The Commission shall contract with an independent administrator to administer the fund pursuant to open competitive bidding procedures established by the Commission. The independent administrator shall collect the assessments levied and distribute them from the fund pursuant to a plan which has been approved by the Commission. ~~Money in the fund must be used for the sole purpose of maintaining the availability of telephone service.~~

6. *The Commission shall by regulation establish:*

(a) The procedure for contracting with an independent administrator who will certify or recertify the eligibility of customers for lifeline service as defined in NRS 707.450, including:

(1) The selection of the independent administrator pursuant to open competitive bidding procedures established by the Commission; and

(2) The duties of the independent administrator which must be promulgated in advance of conducting the initial request for proposal for the independent administrator.

(b) The duties of the independent administrator which must:

(1) Be determined by criteria adopted by the Commission or the Federal Communications Commission;

(2) Provide for the independent administrator to be able to accomplish all functions necessary for interfacing with the National Lifeline Accountability Database when it is established and operational pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.404 and any other national eligibility database for eligible telecommunication providers; and

(3) Require the independent administrator to be responsible for informing eligible telecommunications providers of the status of their customers' eligibility to receive lifeline service as defined in NRS 707.450.

7. To implement the requirements of subsections 5 and 6, the Commission:
(a) May select a single entity to perform the duties of subsections 5 and 6;
and

(b) Is authorized to use the fund set forth in subsection 5 for the sole purpose of maintaining the availability of telephone service as set forth in subsections 5 and 6.

Sec. 2. Chapter 707 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. The Department shall create and maintain a database of eligible customers by not later than December 1, 2013, for the exclusive purpose of allowing access by an eligible provider to determine or verify the eligibility of customers for lifeline service. The database must include, without limitation:

(a) The name and address of each eligible customer; and

(b) If applicable, the telephone number of each eligible customer.

2. The Department may adopt such regulations as are necessary to carry out the provisions of subsection 1 and to coordinate the acquisition of the information required to create the database of eligible customers.

Sec. 3. NRS 707.400 is hereby amended to read as follows:

707.400 As used in NRS 707.400 to 707.500, inclusive, ~~and section 2 of this act,~~ the words and terms defined in NRS 707.410 to 707.460, inclusive, have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.

~~Sec. 2.~~ **Sec. 4. 1. NRS 707.470 ~~and 707.480 are~~ is hereby repealed.**

~~2. NRS 707.480 is hereby repealed.~~

~~Sec. 3.~~ **Sec. 5. The Public Utilities Commission of Nevada shall adopt the regulations required by NRS 704.040, as amended by section 1 of this act, on or before July 1, 2014.**

Sec. 6. 1. This section and section 2 of this act become effective on passage and approval.

2. Sections 1 and 3, subsection 2 of section 4, and sections 5 and 6 of this act become effective on October 1, 2013.

3. Subsection 1 of section 4 of this act becomes effective on January 1, 2014.

4. Section 2 of this act expires by limitation when an independent administrator is selected pursuant to section 1 of this act.

TEXT OF REPEALED SECTIONS

707.470 Department to provide list of eligible customers to each eligible provider; contents of the list; update of list regulations.

1. The Department shall provide to each eligible provider a list of eligible customers, as determined by criteria adopted by the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada or the Federal Communications Commission, as appropriate, who are located within the service area of the eligible provider. The list must include:

(a) The name and address of each eligible customer; and

(b) If applicable, the telephone number of each eligible customer.

2. Every 6 months the Department shall provide to each eligible provider an updated list of the eligible customers in this State.

3. The Department may adopt such regulations as are necessary to coordinate the acquisition and provision of the information required to be provided pursuant to this section.

NRS 707.480 Eligible provider to notify eligible customers regarding default receipt of lifeline and link up services; contents of notification; declination of services; billing for services; duration of lifeline services.

1. An eligible provider, within 7 days after determining that a person located in its service area is an eligible customer, shall notify the eligible customer that the eligible customer will receive lifeline or link up services, or both, unless the eligible customer specifically declines to receive the services. The notification must include:

(a) Information about the lifeline and link up services, including, without limitation, the date on which the services will begin and any options or responsibilities that the eligible customer may have related to the receipt of those services;

(b) A self-addressed, postage paid response card which the eligible customer must return to the eligible provider to decline the services; and

(c) A statement that the eligible provider will automatically provide lifeline or link up services, or both, to the eligible customer unless the eligible customer declines the services by timely returning to the eligible provider the response card included with the notification.

2. To decline lifeline or link up services, an eligible customer must return the response card included in the notification provided pursuant to subsection 1 to the eligible provider not later than 10 days before the date on which the services are scheduled to begin.

3. An eligible provider shall begin billing an eligible customer for lifeline or link up services, or both, not later than 60 days after the date on which the eligible provider receives the list of eligible customers from the Department which includes the eligible customer, if the eligible customer has not declined the services.

4. An eligible provider shall continue providing lifeline services to an eligible customer for as long as the eligible customer continues to receive telecommunication services from the eligible provider until the customer or the Department notifies the eligible provider that the customer is no longer eligible for the program. The eligible provider shall discontinue providing lifeline services to an eligible customer if the eligible customer notifies the eligible provider in writing that the eligible customer wishes to discontinue receiving those services.