AN ACT

Relating to telecommunications services for certain disabled subscribers; and providing for an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1
AN ACT

Relating to telecommunications services for certain disabled subscribers; and providing for an effective date.

* Section 1. AS 42.05.296 is amended to read:

Sec. 42.05.296. Telecommunications [TELEPHONE] services for certain disabled [IMPAIRED] subscribers. (a) The commission shall adopt regulations to require telecommunications [TELEPHONE] utilities to provide service to subscribers who are deaf, hard of hearing, and speech disabled [IMPAIRED SUBSCRIBERS] that permits the subscriber to communicate by one or more telecommunications devices [TELEPHONE] with persons of normal hearing and that makes available reasonable access of all phases of public telecommunications [TELEPHONE] service to subscribers of telecommunications services who are deaf, hard of hearing, and speech disabled [IMPAIRED TELEPHONE SUBSCRIBERS]. The regulations must provide for cost recovery through surcharges
added to the [BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE] rate for each telecommunications service. The commission shall hold hearings to determine the most cost-effective method of providing this service.

(b) A telecommunications service [TELEPHONE] subscriber is eligible for the service required by (a) of this section if the subscriber is a person who is certified as deaf, hard of hearing, or speech disabled [IMPAIRED] by a licensed physician, a speech-language pathologist licensed under AS 08.11, an audiologist, or the Department of Health and Social Services or if the subscriber is an organization that represents or has a principal purpose to provide services to persons who are [REPRESENTING THE] deaf, hard of hearing, or speech disabled [IMPAIRED] as determined by the commission.

* Sec. 2. This Act takes effect July 1, 2018.