

Alaska Telecom Association

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Telecommunications Regulatory Modernization Act

Executive Summary

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The telecommunication statutes (AS 42.05) are in need of revision due to rapid changes in technology and in FCC regulations which render portions of the existing statutes obsolete and/or inefficient in the modern telecommunications (telecom) world.

Alaska's telecommunications providers, through the Alaska Telecom Association, have worked together to offer these suggested changes. The changes maintain important consumer protections, appropriate RCA jurisdiction, and consistency with FCC regulations. They also give providers flexibility to respond to and deploy new technology.

Some existing telecom regulations are over 25 years old and, as a result, are obsolete. Consumer demand for broadband and mobile services continues to grow while the demand for landlines declines. Carrier of last resort requirements and alternative operator services are no longer necessary. Placing telecom providers on a level playing field will encourage deployment of advanced technologies and more efficient network design.

Adoption of the recommended statutory changes will result in a reduced burden on the RCA, thus reducing regulatory cost charges for consumers. As drafted, the bill maintains current regulatory cost charges (RCC) for another fiscal year. This allows the RCA time to evaluate its workload and implement cost- based charges, per its regulations.