

LEGAL SERVICES

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MEMORANDUM

January 11, 2012

SUBJECT: Sectional Summary of SB 138 (Work Order No. 27-LS1002(D))

TO: Senator Bill Wielechowski
Attn: Sam Gottstein

FROM: Lisa Moritz Kirsch
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill. As a preliminary matter, please note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill -- the bill itself is the best statement of its contents.

Section 1. Creates a new section to AS 42.05.715 of the Alaska Public Utilities Regulatory Act that

- requires telecommunications carriers to disclose detailed information on bills;
- precludes a telecommunications carrier from billing for a third person, corporation, or billing agent, unless the telecommunications carrier bill includes certain details of the third party's billing and a toll free-contact for the third party to resolve a disputed charge;
- forbids a telecommunications carrier from discontinuing service to a customer who uses the contact information on the bill to contest a charge and refuses to pay a charge from a third person, corporation, or billing agent; and
- defines the term "telecommunications carrier."

Section 2. Adds a new unlawful act or practice to the list in AS 45.50.471(b) for violation of new section AS 45.50.476.

Section 3. Creates a new section, AS 45.50.476, that precludes a telecommunications carrier from billing for another vendor of goods or services unless the services fall within a narrow list of exceptions, gives the Regulatory Commission of Alaska authority to adopt regulations to implement this section, and defines "telecommunications carrier" as it is defined in section 1 of this bill for AS 42.05.715 of the Alaska Public Utilities Regulatory Act.

Section 4. Adds the new unlawful act or practice from section 2 to the exceptions to the exclusive jurisdiction of the state, a regulatory board, or a commission.

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