

the RCA hopes the Legislature will keep in mind when approaching the very complicated issue of spurring broadband Internet deployment.

Definitions

Broadband: The FCC defines broadband as “high speed Internet access that is always on and faster than traditional dial-up access.” Broadband speed requirements imposed by the FCC change as technology improves and faster access methods become available. The 2016 FCC Broadband Progress Report sets a minimum benchmark speed for broadband at 25 Mbps download/3 Mbps upload (25Mbps/3Mbps) for fixed services, up from 10Mbps/1Mbps in 2015.

Last Mile: Connection between your home (or wireless device) and your broadband service provider.

Second Mile/Middle Mile: The connections between your broadband service provider and the Internet.

RCA Enabling Statutes

AS 42.05.145(a) provides that “[a] utility that provides local exchange or interexchange telecommunications service in the state affects the public interest. Regulation of these utilities shall, consistent with this chapter, seek to maintain and further the efficiency, availability, and affordability of universal basic telecommunications service.”

AS 42.05.990(6)(B) states that “public utility” or “utility” “includes every corporation . . . that owns, operates, manages, or controls any plant, pipeline, or system for . . . furnishing telecommunications to the public for compensation.”

AS 42.05.990(13) defines “telecommunications” as “the transmission and reception of messages, impressions, pictures, and signals by means of electricity, electromagnetic waves, and any other kind of energy, force variations, and impulses whether conveyed by cable, wire, radiated through space, or transmitted through other media within a designated area or between designated points.”

AS 42.05.830 provides that “[i]n providing for competition under AS 42.05.800 to AS 42.05.890 [*Competitive Intrastate Long Distance Telephone Service*], the [RCA] shall establish a system of access charges to be paid by long distance carriers to compensate local exchange carriers for the costs of originating and terminating long distance services.”

AS 42.05.840 provides “[t]he [RCA] may establish a universal service fund or other mechanism to be used to ensure the provision of long distance telephone service at reasonable rates throughout the state and otherwise preserve universal service.”

AS 42.05.296(a) provides “[t]he [RCA] shall adopt regulations to require telephone utilities to provide service to deaf, hard of hearing, and speech impaired subscribers that permits the subscriber to communicate by telephone with persons of normal hearing and that makes available reasonable access of all phases of public telephone service to deaf, hard of hearing, and speech impaired telephone subscribers. The regulations must provide for cost recovery through surcharges added to the basic local exchange rate. The [RCA] shall hold hearings to determine the most cost-effective method of providing this service.”