

**SENATE BILL NO. 80**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS COSTELLO, Stevens, Micciche, Bishop

Introduced: 3/8/17

Referred: Labor and Commerce, Finance

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to telecommunications services for certain disabled subscribers; and**  
2 **providing for an effective date."**

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

4 \* **Section 1.** AS 42.05.296 is amended to read:

5           **Sec. 42.05.296. Telecommunications [TELEPHONE] services for certain**  
6 **disabled [IMPAIRED] subscribers.** (a) The commission shall adopt regulations to  
7 require **telecommunications** [TELEPHONE] utilities to provide service to deaf, hard  
8 of hearing, and speech **disabled** [IMPAIRED] subscribers that permits the subscriber  
9 to communicate by **one or more telecommunications devices** [TELEPHONE] with  
10 persons of normal hearing and that makes available reasonable access of all phases of  
11 public **telecommunications** [TELEPHONE] service to deaf, hard of hearing, and  
12 speech **disabled telecommunications service** [IMPAIRED TELEPHONE]  
13 subscribers. The regulations must provide for cost recovery through surcharges added  
14 to the [BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE] rate **for each telecommunications service.**

1           The commission shall hold hearings to determine the most cost-effective method of  
2           providing this service.

3                   (b) A **telecommunications service** [TELEPHONE] subscriber is eligible for  
4           the service required by (a) of this section if the subscriber is certified as deaf, hard of  
5           hearing, or speech **disabled** [IMPAIRED] by a licensed physician, a speech-language  
6           pathologist licensed under AS 08.11, an audiologist, or the Department of Health and  
7           Social Services or if the subscriber is an organization representing the deaf, hard of  
8           hearing, or speech **disabled** [IMPAIRED] as determined by the commission.

9           \* **Sec. 2.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2017.