

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 80(L&C)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/7/17

Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): SENATORS COSTELLO, Stevens, Micciche, Bishop

REPRESENTATIVES Claman, Kawasaki, Sullivan-Leonard, Saddler, LeDoux, Tuck, Tarr

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
8 **subscribers who are** deaf, hard of hearing, and speech **disabled** [IMPAIRED
9 SUBSCRIBERS] that permits the subscriber to communicate by **one or more**
10 **telecommunications devices** [TELEPHONE] with persons of normal hearing and that
11 makes available reasonable access of all phases of public **telecommunications**
12 [TELEPHONE] service to **subscribers of telecommunications services who are**
13 deaf, hard of hearing, and speech **disabled** [IMPAIRED TELEPHONE
14 SUBSCRIBERS]. The regulations must provide for cost recovery through surcharges

1 added to the [BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE] rate **for each telecommunications**
2 **service**. The commission shall hold hearings to determine the most cost-effective
3 method of providing this service.

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

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