

Original sponsors: Boucher, Goll
and Ellis

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 48 (Finance)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to reduced rates and discounted
7 local exchange telecommunication service for low-
8 income individuals."

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 * Section 1. AS 42.05.301 is amended read:

11 Sec. 42.05.301. DISCRIMINATION IN SERVICE. Except as provided
12 in AS 42.05.306, a [A] public utility may not, as to service, make or
13 grant an unreasonable preference or advantage to any person or subject
14 any person to an unreasonable prejudice or disadvantage. A public
15 utility may not establish or maintain or provide an unreasonable
16 difference as to service, either as between localities or as between
17 classes of service, but nothing in this section prohibits the estab-
18 lishment of reasonable classifications of service or requires unrea-
19 sonable investment in facilities.

20 * Sec. 2. AS 42.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

21 Sec. 42.05.306. DISCOUNTED SERVICE AND REDUCED RATE. A public
22 utility may provide a discounted service or a reduced rate for essen-
23 tial local exchange telecommunication services to individuals who
24 receive benefits from a means test social services assistance program
25 administered by the state or federal government. The commission may
26 not require a utility to provide a discounted service or reduced rate
27 or to incur uncompensated costs or administrative burdens for services
28 provided under this section.

29 * Sec. 3. AS 42.05.391(a) is amended to read:

1 (a) Except as provided in AS 42.05.306, a [A] public utility may
2 not, as to rates, grant an unreasonable preference or advantage to any
3 of its customers or subject a customer to an unreasonable prejudice or
4 disadvantage. A public utility may not establish or maintain an
5 unreasonable difference as to rates, either as between localities or
6 between classes of service. A municipally owned utility may offer
7 uniform or identical rates for a public utility service to customers
8 located in different areas within its certificated service area who
9 receive the same class of service. Any uniform or identical rate
10 shall, upon complaint, be subject to review by the commission and may
11 be set aside if shown to be unreasonable.