

BY REP. BOUCHER, Collins, Gruenberg

1 IN THE HOUSE

2

HOUSE BILL NO. 557

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to telephone services for the hear-
7 ing impaired."

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

9 * Section 1. AS 42.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

10 Sec. 42.05.296. TELEPHONE SERVICES FOR HEARING IMPAIRED SUB-
11 SCRIBERS. (a) The commission shall adopt regulations to require
12 telephone utilities to provide service to deaf and severely hearing
13 impaired subscribers that permits the subscriber to communicate by
14 telephone with persons of normal hearing and that makes available
15 reasonable access of all phases of public telephone service to deaf or
16 severely hearing impaired telephone subscribers. The regulations
17 must provide that the service be provided to deaf and severely hearing
18 impaired subscribers as part of the basic exchange rate. The
19 commission shall hold hearings to determine the most cost-effective
20 method of providing this service.

21 (b) A telephone subscriber is eligible for the service required
22 by (a) of this section if the subscriber is certified as deaf or
23 severely hearing impaired by a licensed physician, audiologist, or the
24 Department of Health and Social Services or if the subscriber is an
25 organization representing the deaf or severely hearing impaired as
26 determined by the commission.

27 * Sec. 2. The Alaska Public Utilities Commission shall adopt the regu-
28 lations required by AS 42.05.296, enacted by sec. 1 of this Act, on or
29 before July 1, 1991.