

Original sponsor(s): REP. BOUCHER, Collins, Gruenberg

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE  
2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 557 (L&C)  
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 deaf  
7 and hard of hearing."  
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 DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING  
11 SUBSCRIBERS. (a) The commission shall adopt regulations to require  
12 telephone utilities to provide service to deaf and hard of hearing  
13 subscribers that permits the subscriber to communicate by telephone  
14 with persons of normal hearing and that makes available reasonable  
15 access of all phases of public telephone service to deaf or hard of  
16 hearing telephone subscribers. The regulations must provide for cost  
17 recovery through surcharges added to the basic exchange and inter-  
18 exchange rates. The commission shall hold hearings to determine the  
19 most cost-effective method of providing this service.  
20 (b) A telephone subscriber is eligible for the service required  
21 by (a) of this section if the subscriber is certified as deaf or hard  
22 of hearing by a licensed physician, audiologist, or the Department of  
23 Health and Social Services or if the subscriber is an organization  
24 representing the deaf or hard of hearing as determined by the commis-  
25 sion.  
26 \* Sec. 2. The Alaska Public Utilities Commission shall adopt the regu-  
27 lations required by AS 42.05.296, enacted by sec. 1 of this Act, on or  
28 before July 1, 1991.