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SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT  
FIRST COMMITTEE OF REFERRAL

DATE: 2/14/92

FURTHER: None

Date of 5-Day Notice: Waived 2/28/92  
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE: 3/4/92

L&C Committee considered SB 408

"An Act relating to telephone service for the deaf and hard of hearing."

and recommends:

replace with CS SB 408 (LTC)

- same title
- new title
- technical title change (HB only)

attaches amendment(s)

adopts \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent

further referral to the \_\_\_\_\_

do pass

do not pass

no recommendation

individual recommendations

NEW FISCAL NOTES: Dept/Date

zero fiscal notes DCEN/3-2-92

fiscal notes \_\_\_\_\_

appropriation--no fiscal note

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTES: Dept/Date

Governor's bill with fiscal notes: zero fiscal notes \_\_\_\_\_

fiscal notes \_\_\_\_\_

DO PASS:

Shirley Craft  
Rick Halford

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Lawrence - 10/23  
Chair: Signature and Recommendation

1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: 3/02/92

Department Affected: Commerce & Economic Dev

Title: An act relating to the surcharge for telephone services for the deaf, (and) hearing, and speech impaired.

BRU: Alaska Public Utilities Commission

Component: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Requestor: Senator Roday

COMPONENT SERIAL NO.

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EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE						
FUND SOURCE:	0	0	0	0	0	0

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
FUND SOURCE:						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year impact:

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

Commission strongly endorses CC SB 408

Prepared By: Don Schroer *DS* Phone: 276-6222

Division: Alaska Public Utilities Commission Date: 3/2/92

Approved by Commissioner: *[Signature]*

Agency: Commerce & Economic Development Date: 3.8.92

# POSITION PAPER

Alaska Public  
Utilities Commission

CC SB 408

The proposed amendment will greatly simplify the collection of the surcharge. The prior language required the surcharge to be collected from both the bills of local phone companies and Alascom, GCI, and any other interexchange carriers in the state. This amendment should reduce the administrative complexity of surcharge collections and reduce customer confusion by simply having one surcharge appear on a phone customer's local bill.

The Committee substitute has added the recommended language "speech-impaired" to AS 42.05.296 so that all references to deaf and hard of hearing would be expanded to include speech-impaired (see enclosed). The addition of this language brings us in line with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1991

bill file  
MAR 4 1992

## Alaska Telephone Association

3305 Arctic Blvd./Suite 102

Anchorage, Alaska 99503

(907)563-4000/FAX (907)562-3776

Jack H Rhyner  
President

Gordon Parker  
Executive Director

February 28, 1992

Hon. Drue Pearce  
Alaska State Senate  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Pearce:

Thanks so much for your prompt response to the request for expedited treatment of SB 408.

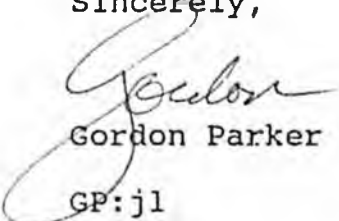
As you know, this bill is a non controversial, technical amendment to resolve difficulties in administering the hearing and speech impaired surcharge and in avoiding customer confusion. As the statute now stands, two surcharges must be applied: one to the local bill and one to the toll bill. SB 408 will simply provide for one surcharge. Passage of SB 408 will not affect either the level of service provided to the hearing and speech impaired nor will it alter the total to be collected in the surcharge.

As you know, the Alaska Public Utilities Commission requested and endorsed SB 408. I want to assure you that industry supports it as well. I can speak on behalf of the local telephone companies. I have also been assured by Alascom and GCI that they, too, believe it will relieve what is otherwise a very complex and expensive administrative problem. Additionally, Commissioner Mark Foster has informed me that the Alaska Association for the Deaf has endorsed the bill.

We did ask for expedited treatment of this legislation. We appreciate your response to that request. It was necessary to make the request since we must start billing the surcharge in April.

If you need any additional information, please call. Meanwhile, thanks again, Drue, for your help.

Sincerely,

  
Gordon Parker

GP:jl