

By: Chavez

H.B. No. 3296

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to telephone prepaid calling card services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 55.253, Utilities Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 55.253. TELEPHONE PREPAID CALLING SERVICES. (a) In this section:

(1) "Prepaid calling card company" means a company that provides a prepaid calling service to the public using its own network or resold services.

(2) "Prepaid calling service" means a prepaid telecommunications service that allows an end user to originate a call using an access number and authorization code.

(b) A person may not operate as a prepaid calling card company in this state unless the company is registered with the commission in accordance with Section 52.103.

(c) The commission by rule may prescribe standards regarding the information a prepaid calling card company shall disclose to customers in relation to the rates and terms of service for prepaid calling services offered in this state.

(d) In addition to information required by Subsection (c), the commission by rule shall require a prepaid calling card company to print on each prepaid calling card the commission's toll-free customer hotline.

1 (e) [~~(c)~~] The commission is granted all necessary
2 jurisdiction to adopt rules under this section, to require
3 registration, and to enforce those rules, that registration, and
4 this section.

5 (f) [~~(d)~~] A violation of a rule adopted under this section
6 or failure to register under this section is subject to enforcement
7 under Subchapter B, Chapter 15.

8 SECTION 2. Section 57.041(b), Utilities Code, is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 (b) It is the policy of this state that commercial mobile
11 service and telephone prepaid calling card providers contribute an
12 appropriate amount to the telecommunications infrastructure fund.

13 SECTION 3. Section 57.042, Utilities Code, is amended by
14 adding Subsection (13) to read as follows:

15 (13) Telephone prepaid calling card has the meaning
16 assigned by Section 151.01832, Tax Code.

17 SECTION 4. (a) This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

18 (b) A prepaid calling card company doing business in this
19 state on or after September 1, 2003, shall register with the Public
20 Utility Commission of Texas as required by Section 55.253,
21 Utilities Code, as amended by this Act, not later than January 1,
22 2004.