

Amend CSHB 789 as follows:

(1) On page 2, line 16, strike "basic".

(2) On page 44, between lines 23 and 24, insert the following:

(b-1) The commission shall adopt rules requiring certificated providers to implement procedures to ensure that all consumers are clearly informed both orally and in writing of the existence of the telephone lifeline service program when they request or initiate service or change service locations or providers. By June 1, 2006, the commission shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and, to the maximum extent feasible, housing authorities in the principal cities of each metropolitan statistical area, to improve enrollment rates in the telephone lifeline service program.

(3) On page 45, strike line 12-22 and substitute the following:

(d-1) A certificated provider of local exchange telephone service shall provide access to lifeline service to a customer whose income is not more than 150 percent of the applicable income level established by the federal poverty guidelines or in whose household resides a person who receives or has a child that receives:

(1) Medicaid;

(2) food stamps;

(3) Supplemental Security Income;

(4) federal public housing assistance;

(5) Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) assistance;

(6) health insurance benefits through the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP); or

(7) free or reduced-price lunches through the national school lunch program.

(4) On page 45, line 22, between lines 22 and 23, insert the following:

(d-2) A certificated local exchange telephone service shall provide consumers who apply for or receive lifeline service

access to available vertical services or custom calling features, including caller ID, call waiting, and call blocking, at the same price as other consumers. Lifeline discounts shall only apply to that portion of the bill that is for basic network service.