

By: Quintanilla

H.B. No. 4442

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to telecommunications services provided by cable service providers.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 55, Utilities Code, is amended by adding Section 55.0155 to read as follows:

Sec. 55.0155. LIFELINE SERVICE BY CABLE SERVICE PROVIDER.

(a) In this section:

(1) "Cable service provider" has the meaning assigned by Section 66.002.

(2) "Local exchange telephone service" has the meaning assigned by Section 51.002.

(3) "Voice service" has the meaning assigned by Section 283.002, Local Government Code.

(b) A cable service provider that offers local exchange telephone service or voice service shall provide lifeline service in accordance with the requirements of 47 C.F.R. Part 54, Subpart E, to the same extent and in the same manner an eligible telecommunications carrier is required to provide that service regardless of whether the cable service provider is eligible for reimbursement from the universal service fund for that service under Subchapter B, Chapter 56.

(c) In addition to the services required under Subsection (b), a cable service provider shall provide each service listed in

1 Section 58.051 to a customer who qualifies for lifeline service.

2 (d) Before January 15 of each odd-numbered year, the  
3 commission shall report to the legislature on the effects of this  
4 section on the number of persons enrolling in lifeline service. The  
5 commission may include the report in the report required under  
6 Section 52.006.

7 (e) A cable service provider shall provide to the commission  
8 any information necessary for the commission to comply with  
9 Subsection (d).

10 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.