

AN ACT

relating to the procedure for certain small local exchange companies to propose to offer certain services or to make a minor change in a rate or tariff.

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

SECTION 1. Section 53.301, Utilities Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 53.301. DEFINITION. (a) In this subchapter, "minor change" means a change, including the restructuring of rates of existing services, that:

(1) decreases the rates or revenues of an incumbent local exchange company; or

(2) together with any other rate change [~~or proposed~~] or approved tariff changes in the 12 months preceding the effective date of the proposed change, increases the company's total regulated intrastate gross annual revenues by not more than five percent.

(b) With regard to a change to a basic local access line rate, a "minor change" does not include a change that, together with any other change to the basic local access line rate that took effect during the 12 months preceding the effective date of the proposed change, results in an increase of more than 50 [~~40~~] percent.

SECTION 2. Section 53.304, Utilities Code, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2 Sec. 53.304. PROCEDURE TO OFFER CERTAIN SERVICES OR MAKE
3 MINOR CHANGES. (a) An incumbent local exchange company may offer
4 an extended local calling service, a packaged service, or a new or
5 promotional service on an optional basis or make a minor change in
6 its rates or tariffs if the company:

7 (1) is a cooperative corporation or has, together with
8 all affiliated incumbent local exchange companies, fewer than
9 31,000 access lines in service in this state;

10 (2) files with the commission and the office notice [~~a~~
11 ~~statement of intent~~], as prescribed by Subsection (b), not later
12 than the 10th [~~9th~~] day before the effective date of the proposed
13 change;

14 (3) provides notice as prescribed by Section 53.305;
15 and

16 (4) files with the commission affidavits verifying
17 that notice as prescribed by Section 53.305 was provided.

18 (b) The notice [~~statement of intent~~] must include:

19 (1) a copy of a resolution adopted by the incumbent
20 local exchange company's board of directors approving the proposed
21 change;

22 (2) a description of the services affected by the
23 proposed change;

24 (3) a copy of the proposed tariff for the affected
25 service;

26 (4) a copy of the customer notice required by
27 Subsection (a)(3);

1 (5) the number of access lines the company and each
2 affiliate have in service in this state; and

3 (6) the amount by which the company's total regulated
4 intrastate gross annual revenues will increase or decrease as a
5 result of the proposed change.

6 SECTION 3. Section 53.305(b), Utilities Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (b) Notice must:

9 (1) be provided not later than the 10th [~~61st~~] day
10 before the effective date of the proposed change; and

11 (2) include:

12 (A) a description of the services affected by the
13 proposed change;

14 (B) the effective date of the proposed change;

15 (C) an explanation of the customer's right to
16 petition the commission for a review under Section 53.306,
17 including the number of persons required to petition before a
18 commission review will occur;

19 (D) an explanation of the customer's right to
20 information concerning how to obtain a copy of the proposed tariff
21 from the company;

22 (E) the amount by which the company's total
23 regulated intrastate gross annual revenues will increase or
24 decrease as a result of the proposed change; and

25 (F) a list of rates that are affected by the
26 proposed rate change.

27 SECTION 4. This Act applies only to a proposal to offer a

1 service or to change a rate or tariff notice of which is filed on or
2 after the effective date of this Act. A proposal to offer a service
3 or to change a rate or tariff for which a statement of intent is
4 filed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law
5 in effect on the date the statement was filed, and that law is
6 continued in effect for that purpose.

7 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2680 was passed by the House on April 20, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 101, Nays 36, 3 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2680 was passed by the Senate on May 10, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor