

By: Pickett

H.B. No. 2602

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the regulation of certain telecommunications services markets and rates.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 58.021(b) and (d), Utilities Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b) The notice must include a statement that the company agrees to:

(1) limit ~~[until September 1, 2005,]~~ any increase in a rate the company charges for basic network services as prescribed by Subchapter C; and

(2) fulfill the infrastructure commitment prescribed by Subchapters F and G.

(d) The commission shall ~~[may]~~ allow an electing company serving fewer than 500,000 ~~[five million]~~ access lines to withdraw the company's election under this chapter for a good cause shown ~~[+~~

~~[-1-]]~~ on application by the company. In addition, an electing company serving fewer than 500,000 access lines is entitled to withdraw the company's election under this chapter if the company receives reduced support under a plan described by Section 56.021(1) for a reason other than line loss ~~[, and~~

~~[-2- only for good cause].~~

SECTION 2. Section 58.054(c), Utilities Code, is amended to read as follows:

1 (c) Notwithstanding Subsections (a) and (b), the cap on the
2 rates for basic network services for a company electing under this
3 chapter does not apply to an incumbent local exchange company that
4 has been subject to regulation under Chapter 59 for the four-year
5 period preceding the date of that company's election to be
6 regulated under this chapter. For an incumbent local exchange
7 company that has been subject to regulation under Chapter 59 for the
8 four-year period preceding the date of that company's election to
9 be regulated under this chapter, Section 58.060 governs the
10 adjustment of rates for basic network services [~~may not expire~~
11 ~~before September 1, 2005~~].

12 SECTION 3. Section 58.054(c), Utilities Code, as amended by
13 this Act, applies only to an incumbent local exchange company that
14 elects to be regulated under Chapter 58, Utilities Code, on or after
15 September 1, 2013.

16 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.