

By: King of Hemphill

H.B. No. 1618

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the period of eligibility for support from the  
3 universal service plan for certain providers.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 56.023(p), Utilities Code, is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (p) If an incumbent local exchange company or cooperative is  
8 ineligible for support under a plan established under Section  
9 56.021(1) for services in an exchange, a plan established under  
10 Section 56.021(1) may not provide support to any other  
11 telecommunications providers for services in that exchange, except  
12 that an eligible telecommunications provider that is receiving  
13 support under Section 56.021(1)(A) in that exchange shall continue  
14 to receive such support until the later of December 31, 2017, or the  
15 second anniversary of [~~for a 24-month period following~~] the date  
16 the incumbent local exchange provider or cooperative ceases  
17 receiving support in that exchange. The support received by the  
18 eligible telecommunications provider during that [~~the 24-month~~]  
19 period shall be at the same monthly per line support level in effect  
20 for that exchange as of the date the incumbent local exchange  
21 provider or cooperative ceases receiving funding in that exchange.

22 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
23 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
24 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

H.B. No. 1618

1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

2 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.