

By: King of Hemphill

H.B. No. 1618

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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

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

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

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

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

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

2 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.