

SENATE BILL No. 690

January 13, 2016, Introduced by Senators ROBERTSON, O'BRIEN, KNOLLENBERG, WARREN, ZORN, GREGORY, JOHNSON, HERTEL, BIEDA, HOOD, KNEZEK, HUNE, SCHUITMAKER, SMITH, PAVLOV, BOOHER and EMMONS and referred to the Committee on Health Policy.

A bill to amend 1991 PA 179, entitled
"Michigan telecommunications act,"
by amending subheading E of article 3 and section 315 (MCL
484.2315), as amended by 2011 PA 58.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

E. SERVICES FOR THE ~~HEARING-IMPAIRED~~ **DEAF, DEAFBLIND, HARD OF
HEARING, OR SPEECH-IMPAIRED**

Sec. 315. (1) The commission shall require each provider of
basic local exchange service to provide a text telephone-
telecommunications device for the deaf at cost to each individual
who is certified as deaf, ~~or DEAFBLIND~~, hard of hearing, or speech-
impaired by a licensed physician, licensed audiologist, or
qualified state agency, and to each public safety answering point
as defined in section 102 of the emergency 9-1-1 service enabling

1 act, 1986 PA 32, MCL 484.1102.

2 (2) The commission shall require each provider of basic local
3 exchange service to provide a telecommunication relay service
4 whereby ~~persons~~ **INDIVIDUALS** using a text telephone-
5 telecommunications device for the deaf can communicate with ~~persons~~
6 **INDIVIDUALS** using a voice telephone through the use of third party
7 intervention or automated translation. Each provider of basic local
8 exchange service shall determine whether to provide a
9 telecommunication relay service on its own, jointly with other
10 basic local exchange providers, or by contract with other
11 telecommunication providers. The commission shall determine the
12 technical standards and essential features of text telephone and
13 telecommunication relay service to ensure their compatibility and
14 reliability.

15 (3) Rates and charges for calls placed through a
16 telecommunication relay service shall not exceed the rates and
17 charges for calls placed directly from the same originating
18 location to the same terminating location. Unless ordered by the
19 commission, a provider of a telecommunications relay service ~~shall~~
20 **IS** not ~~be~~ required to handle calls from public telephones except
21 for calls charged collect or to cash, a credit card, or a third
22 party number.

23 (4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, a
24 provider may offer discounts on toll calls where a text telephone-
25 telecommunications device for the deaf is used. The commission
26 shall not prohibit such discounts on toll calls placed through a
27 telecommunication relay service.

1 (5) The commission shall establish a rate for each subscriber
2 line of a provider to allow the provider to recover costs incurred
3 under this section and may waive the costs assessed under this
4 section to individuals who are deaf, ~~or DEAFBLIND,~~ severely hearing
5 ~~impaired~~ **HARD OF HEARING,** or ~~speech-impaired.~~ **SPEECH-IMPAIRED.** The
6 rate established by the commission under this subsection may be
7 assessed as a line item on an end-user's bill.