

## HOUSE BILL No. 2042

AN ACT concerning telecommunications; amending K.S.A. 66-2005 and repealing the existing section.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

Section 1. K.S.A. 66-2005 is hereby amended to read as follows: 66-2005. (a) Each local exchange carrier shall file a network infrastructure plan with the commission on or after January 1, 1997, and prior to January 1, 1998. Each plan, as a part of universal service protection, shall include schedules, which shall be approved by the commission, for deployment of universal service capabilities by July 1, 1998, and the deployment of enhanced universal service capabilities by July 1, 2003, as defined pursuant to subsections (p) and (q) of K.S.A. 66-1,187, and amendments thereto, respectively. With respect to enhanced universal service, such schedules shall provide for deployment of ISDN, or its technological equivalent, or broadband facilities, only upon a firm customer order for such service, or for deployment of other enhanced universal services by a local exchange carrier. After receipt of such an order and upon completion of a deployment plan designed to meet the firm order or otherwise provide for the deployment of enhanced universal service, a local exchange carrier shall notify the commission. The commission shall approve the plan unless the commission determines that the proposed deployment plan is unnecessary, inappropriate, or not cost effective, or would create an unreasonable or excessive demand on the KUSF. The commission shall take action within 90 days. If the commission fails to take action within 90 days, the deployment plan shall be deemed approved. This approval process shall continue until July 1, 2000. Each plan shall demonstrate the capability of the local exchange carrier to comply on an ongoing basis with quality of service standards to be adopted by the commission no later than January 1, 1997.

(b) In order to protect universal service, facilitate the transition to competitive markets and stimulate the construction of an advanced telecommunications infrastructure, each local exchange carrier shall file a regulatory reform plan at the same time as it files the network infrastructure plan required in subsection (a). As part of its regulatory reform plan, a local exchange carrier may elect traditional rate of return regulation or price cap regulation. Carriers that elect price cap regulation shall be exempt from rate base, rate of return and earnings regulation. However, the commission may resume such regulation upon finding, after a hearing, that a carrier that is subject to price cap regulation has: violated minimum quality of service standards pursuant to subsection (l) of K.S.A. 66-2002, and amendments thereto; been given reasonable notice and an opportunity to correct the violation; and failed to do so. Regulatory reform plans also shall include:

(1) A commitment to provide existing and newly ordered point-to-point broadband services to: Any hospital as defined in K.S.A. 65-425, and amendments thereto; any school accredited pursuant to K.S.A. 72-1101 et seq., and amendments thereto; any public library; or other state and local government facilities at discounted prices close to, but not below, long-run incremental cost; and

(2) a commitment to provide basic rate ISDN service, or the technological equivalent, at prices which are uniform throughout the carrier's service area. Local exchange carriers shall not be required to allow retail customers purchasing the foregoing discounted services to resell those services to other categories of customers. Telecommunications carriers may purchase basic rate ISDN services, or the technological equivalent, for resale in accordance with K.S.A. 66-2003, and amendments thereto. The commission may reduce prices charged for services outlined in provisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, if the commitments of the local exchange carrier set forth in those provisions are not being kept.

(c) Subject to the commission's approval, all local exchange carriers shall reduce intrastate access charges to interstate levels as provided herein. Rates for intrastate switched access, and the imputed access portion of toll, shall be reduced over a three-year period with the objective of equalizing interstate and intrastate rates in a revenue neutral, specific and predictable manner. The commission is authorized to rebalance local residential and business service rates to offset the intrastate access and toll charge reductions. Any remaining portion of the reduction in access and toll charges not recovered through local residential and business service rates shall be paid out from the KUSF pursuant to K.S.A. 66-2008,

and amendments thereto. Each rural telephone company shall adjust its intrastate switched access rates on March 1 of each odd-numbered year to match its interstate switched access rates, subject to the following:

(1) Any reduction of a rural telephone company's cost recovery due to reduction of its interstate access revenue shall be recovered from the KUSF;

(2) any portion of rural telephone company reductions in intrastate switched access rates which would result in an increase in KUSF recovery in a single year which exceeds .75% of intrastate retail revenues used in determining sums which may be recovered from Kansas telecommunications customers pursuant to subsection (a) of K.S.A. 66-2008, and amendments thereto, shall be deferred until March 1 of the next following odd-numbered year; and

(3) no rural company shall be required at any time to reduce its intrastate switched access rates below the level of its interstate switched access rates.

(d) Beginning March 1, 1997, each rural telephone company shall have the authority to increase annually its monthly basic local residential and business service rates by an amount not to exceed \$1 in each 12-month period until such monthly rates reach an amount equal to the statewide rural telephone company average rates for such services. The statewide rural telephone company average rates shall be the arithmetic mean of the lowest flat rate as of March 1, 1996, for local residential service and for local business service offered by each rural telephone company within the state. In the case of a rural telephone company which increases its local residential service rate or its local business service rate, or both, to reach the statewide rural telephone company average rate for such services, the amount paid to the company from the KUSF shall be reduced by an amount equal to the additional revenue received by such company through such rate increase. In the case of a rural telephone company which elects to maintain a local residential service rate or a local business service rate, or both, below the statewide rural telephone company average, the amount paid to the company from the KUSF shall be reduced by an amount equal to the difference between the revenue the company could receive if it elected to increase such rate to the average rate and the revenue received by the company.

(e) For purposes of determining sufficient KUSF support, an affordable rate for local exchange service provided by a rural telephone company subject to traditional rate of return regulation shall be determined as follows:

(1) For residential service, an affordable rate shall be the arithmetic mean of residential local service rates charged in this state in all exchanges served by rural telephone companies and in all exchanges in rate groups 1 through 3 as of February 20, 2002, of all other local exchange carriers, weighted by the number of residential access lines to which each such rate applies, and thereafter rounded to the nearest quarter-dollar, subject to the following provisions:

(A) If a rural telephone company's present residential rate, including any separate charge for tone dialing, is at or above such weighted mean, such rate shall be deemed affordable prior to March 1, 2007.

(B) If a rural telephone company's present residential rate, including any separate charge for tone dialing, is below such average: (i) Such rate shall be deemed affordable prior to March 1, 2003; (ii) as of March 1, 2003, and prior to March 1, 2004, a rate \$2 higher than the company's present residential monthly rate, but not exceeding such weighted mean, shall be deemed affordable; (iii) as of March 1, 2004, and prior to March 1, 2005, a rate \$4 higher than the company's present residential monthly rate, but not exceeding such weighted mean, shall be deemed affordable; and (iv) as of March 1, 2005, and prior to March 1, 2006, a rate \$6 higher than the company's present residential monthly rate, but not exceeding such weighted mean, shall be deemed affordable.

(C) As of March 1, 2007, and each two years thereafter, an affordable residential service rate shall be the weighted arithmetic mean of local service rates determined as of October 1 of the preceding year in the manner hereinbefore specified, except that any increase in such mean exceeding \$2 may be satisfied by increases in a rural telephone company's residential monthly service rate not exceeding \$2 per year, effective

March 1 of the year when such mean is determined, with the remainder applied at the rate of \$2 per year, but not to exceed the affordable rate.

(2) For single line business service at any time, an affordable rate shall be the existing rate or an amount \$3 greater than the affordable rate for residential service as determined under provision (1) of this subsection, whichever is higher, except that any increase in the business service affordable rate exceeding \$2 may be satisfied by increases in a rural telephone company's business monthly service rate not exceeding \$2 per year, effective March 1 of the year when such rate is determined, with the remainder applied at the rate of \$2 per year, but not to exceed the affordable rate.

(3) Any flat fee or charge imposed per line on all residential service or single line business service, or both, other than a fee or charge for contribution to the KUSF or imposed by other governmental authority, shall be added to the basic service rate for purposes of determining an affordable rate pursuant to this subsection.

(4) Not later than March 1, 2003, tone dialing shall be made available to all local service customers of each rural telephone company at no charge additional to any increase in the local service rate to become effective on that date. The amount of revenue received as of March 1, 2002, by a rural telephone company from the provision of tone dialing service shall be excluded from reductions in the company's KUSF support otherwise resulting pursuant to this subsection.

(5) A rural telephone company which raises one or more local service rates on application made after February 20, 2002, and pursuant to subsection (b) of K.S.A. 66-2007, and amendments thereto, shall have the level of its affordable rate increased by an amount equal to the amount of the increase in such rate.

(6) Upon motion by a rural telephone company, the commission may determine a higher affordable local residential or business rate for such company if such higher rate allows the company to provide additional or improved service to customers, but any increase in a rural telephone company's local rate attributable to the provision of increased calling scope shall not be included in any subsequent recalculation of affordable rates as otherwise provided in this subsection.

(7) A uniform rate for residential and single line business local service adopted by a rural telephone company shall be deemed an affordable rate for purposes of this subsection if application of such uniform rate generates revenue equal to that which would be generated by application of residential and business rates which are otherwise deemed affordable rates for such company under this subsection.

(8) The provisions of this subsection relating to the implementation of an affordable rate shall not apply to rural telephone companies which do not receive KUSF support. When recalculating affordable rates as provided in this subsection, the rates used shall include the actual rates charged by rural companies that do not receive KUSF support.

(f) For regulatory reform plans in which price cap regulation has been elected, price cap plans shall have three baskets: Residential and single-line business, including touch-tone; switched access services; and miscellaneous services. The commission shall establish price caps at the prices existing when the regulatory plan is filed subject to rate rebalancing as provided in subsection (c) for residential services, including touch-tone services, and for single-line business services, including touch-tone services, within the residential and single-line business service basket. The commission shall establish a formula for adjustments to the price caps. The commission also shall establish price caps at the prices existing when the regulatory plan is filed for the miscellaneous services basket. The commission shall approve any adjustments to the price caps for the miscellaneous service basket, as provided in subsection (g).

(g) On or before January 1, 1997, the commission shall issue a final order in a proceeding to determine the price cap adjustment formula that shall apply to the price caps for the local residential and single-line business and the miscellaneous services baskets and for sub-categories, if any, within those baskets. In determining this formula, the commission shall balance the public policy goals of encouraging efficiency and promoting investment in a quality, advanced telecommunications network in the state. The commission also shall establish any informational filing requirements necessary for the review of any price cap tariff filings, including

price increases or decreases within the caps, to verify such caps would not be exceeded by any proposed price change. The adjustment formula shall apply to the price caps for the local residential and single-line business basket after December 31, 1999, and to the miscellaneous services basket after December 31, 1997. The price cap formula, but not actual prices, shall be reviewed every five years.

(h) The price caps for the residential and single-line business service basket shall be capped at their initial level until January 1, 2000, except for any increases authorized as a part of the revenue neutral rate rebalancing under subsection (c). The price caps for this basket and for the categories in this basket, if any, shall be adjusted annually after December 31, 1999, based on the formula determined by the commission under subsection (g).

(i) The price cap for the switched access service basket shall be set based upon the local exchange carrier's intrastate access tariffs as of January 1, 1997, except for any revenue neutral rate rebalancing authorized in accordance with subsection (c). Thereafter, the cap for this basket shall not change except in connection with any subsequent revenue neutral rebalancing authorized by the commission under subsection (c).

(j) The price caps for the miscellaneous services basket shall be adjusted annually after December 31, 1997, based on the adjustment formula determined by the commission under subsection (g).

(k) A price cap is a maximum price for all services taken as a whole in a given basket. Prices for individual services may be changed within the service categories, if any, established by the commission within a basket. An entire service category, if any, within the residential and single-line business basket or miscellaneous services basket may be priced below the cap for such category. Unless otherwise approved by the commission, no service shall be priced below the price floor which will be long-run incremental cost and imputed access charges. Access charges equal to those paid by telecommunications carriers to local exchange carriers shall be imputed as part of the price floor for toll services offered by local exchange carriers on a toll service basis.

(l) A local exchange carrier may offer promotions within an exchange or group of exchanges. All promotions shall be approved by the commission and ~~shall apply to all customers in a nondiscriminatory manner within the exchange or group of exchanges~~ *may not be unjust, unreasonably discriminatory or unduly preferential.*

(m) Unless the commission authorizes price deregulation at an earlier date, intrastate toll services within the miscellaneous services basket shall continue to be regulated until the affected local exchange carrier begins to offer 1+ intraLATA dialing parity throughout its service territory, at which time intrastate toll will be price deregulated, except that prices cannot be set below the price floor.

(n) On or before July 1, 1997, the commission shall establish guidelines for reducing regulation prior to price deregulation of price cap regulated services in the miscellaneous services basket, the switched access services basket, and the residential and single-line business basket.

(o) Subsequent to the adoption of guidelines pursuant to subsection (n), the commission shall initiate a petitioning procedure under which the local exchange carrier may request rate range pricing. The commission shall act upon a petition within 21 days, subject to a 30-day suspension. The prices within a rate range shall be tariffed and shall apply to all customers in a nondiscriminatory manner in an exchange or group of exchanges.

(p) A local exchange carrier may petition the commission to designate an individual service or service category, if any, within the miscellaneous services basket, the switched access services basket or the residential and single-line business basket for reduced regulation. The commission shall act upon a petition for reduced regulation within 21 days, subject to a suspension period of an additional 30 days, and upon a good cause showing of the commission in the suspension order, or within such shorter time as the commission shall approve. The commission shall issue a final order within the 21-day period or within a 51-day period if a suspension has been issued. Following an order granting reduced regulation of an individual service or service category, the commission shall act on any request for price reductions within seven days subject to a 30-day suspension. The commission shall act on other requests for price cap ad-

justments, adjustments within price cap plans and on new service offerings within 21 days subject to a 30-day suspension. Such a change will be presumed lawful unless it is determined the prices are below the price floor or that the price cap for a category, if any, within the entire basket has been exceeded.

(q) The commission may price deregulate within an exchange area, or at its discretion on a statewide basis, any individual service or service category upon a finding by the commission that there is a telecommunications carrier or an alternative provider providing a comparable product or service, considering both function and price, in that exchange area. The commission shall act upon a petition for price deregulation within 21 days, subject to a suspension period of an additional 30 days, and upon a good cause showing of the commission in the suspension order, or within such shorter time as the commission shall approve; provided that no such petition shall be filed prior to July 1997, unless the commission otherwise authorizes. The commission shall issue a final order within the 21-day period or within a 51-day period if a suspension has been issued.

(r) Upon complaint or request, the commission may investigate a price deregulated service. The commission shall resume price regulation of a service provided in any exchange area by placing it in the appropriate service basket, as approved by the commission, upon a determination by the commission that there is no longer a telecommunications carrier or alternative provider providing a comparable product or service, considering both function and price, in that exchange area.

(s) The commission shall require that for all local exchange carriers all such price deregulated basic intraLATA toll services be geographically averaged statewide and not be priced below the price floor established in subsection (k).

(t) Cost studies to determine price floors shall be performed as required by the commission in response to complaints. In addition, notwithstanding the exemption in subsection (b), the commission may request information necessary to execute any of its obligations under the act.

(u) A local exchange carrier may petition for individual customer pricing. The commission shall respond expeditiously to the petition within a period of not more than 30 days subject to a 30-day suspension.

(v) No audit, earnings review or rate case shall be performed with reference to the initial prices filed as required herein.

(w) Telecommunications carriers shall not be subject to price regulation, except that: Access charge reductions shall be passed through to consumers by reductions in basic intrastate toll prices; and basic toll prices shall remain geographically averaged statewide. As required under K.S.A. 66-131, and amendments thereto, and except as provided for in subsection (c) of K.S.A. 66-2004, and amendments thereto, telecommunications carriers that were not authorized to provide switched local exchange telecommunications services in this state as of July 1, 1996, including cable television operators who have not previously offered telecommunications services, must receive a certificate of convenience based upon a demonstration of technical, managerial and financial viability and the ability to meet quality of service standards established by the commission. Any telecommunications carrier or other entity seeking such certificate shall file a statement, which shall be subject to the commission's approval, specifying with particularity the areas in which it will offer service, the manner in which it will provide the service in such areas and whether it will serve both business customers and residential customers in such areas. Any structurally separate affiliate of a local exchange carrier that provides telecommunications services shall be subject to the same regulatory obligations and oversight as a telecommunications carrier, as long as the local exchange carrier's affiliate obtains access to any services or facilities from its affiliated local exchange carrier on the same terms and conditions as the local exchange carrier makes those services and facilities available to other telecommunications carriers. The commission shall oversee telecommunications carriers to prevent fraud and other practices harmful to consumers and to ensure compliance with quality of service standards adopted for all local exchange carriers and telecommunications carriers in the state.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 66-2005 is hereby repealed.

Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

I hereby certify that the above BILL originated in the HOUSE, and passed that body

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\_\_\_\_\_  
*Speaker of the House.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Chief Clerk of the House.*

Passed the SENATE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*President of the Senate.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Secretary of the Senate.*

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Governor.*