

CHAPTER 56
SENATE BILL No. 49

AN ACT concerning telecommunications; relating to the Kansas universal service fund; amending K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 66-2008 and repealing the existing section.

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

Section 1. K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 66-2008 is hereby amended to read as follows: 66-2008. On or before January 1, 1997, the commission shall establish the Kansas universal service fund, hereinafter referred to as the KUSF.

(a) The commission shall require every telecommunications carrier, telecommunications public utility and wireless telecommunications service provider that provides intrastate telecommunications services *and, to the extent not prohibited by federal law, every provider of interconnected VoIP service, as defined by 47 C.F.R. 9.3 (October 1, 2005)*, to contribute to the KUSF on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis. Any telecommunications carrier, telecommunications public utility ~~or~~, wireless telecommunications service provider *or provider of interconnected VoIP service* which contributes to the KUSF may collect from customers an amount equal to such carrier's, utility's or provider's contribution, but such carrier, provider or utility may collect a lesser amount from its customer.

Any contributions in excess of distributions collected in any reporting year shall be applied to reduce the estimated contribution that would otherwise be necessary for the following year.

(b) Pursuant to the federal act, distributions from the KUSF shall be made in a competitively neutral manner to qualified telecommunications public utilities, telecommunications carriers and wireless telecommunications providers, that are deemed eligible both under subsection (e)(1) of section 214 of the federal act and by the commission.

(c) The commission shall periodically review the KUSF to determine if the costs of qualified telecommunications public utilities, telecommunications carriers and wireless telecommunications service providers to provide local service justify modification of the KUSF. If the commission determines that any changes are needed, the commission shall modify the KUSF accordingly.

(d) Any qualified telecommunications carrier, telecommunications public utility or wireless telecommunications service provider may request supplemental funding from the KUSF based upon a percentage increase in access lines over the 12-month period prior to the request. The supplemental funding shall be incurred for the purpose of providing services to and within the service area of the qualified telecommunications carrier, telecommunications public utility or wireless telecommunications service provider. Supplemental funding from the KUSF shall be used for infrastructure expenditures necessary to serve additional customers within the service area of such qualifying utility, provider or carrier. All affected parties shall be allowed to review and verify a request of such a qualified utility, carrier or provider for supplemental funding from the KUSF, and to intervene in any commission proceeding regarding such request. The commission shall issue an order on the request within 120 days of filing. Additional funding also may be requested for: The recovery of shortfalls due to additional rebalancing of rates to continue maintenance of parity with interstate access rates; shortfalls due to changes to access revenue requirements resulting from changes in federal rules; additional investment required to provide universal service and enhanced universal service, deployed subject to subsection (a) of K.S.A. 66-2005, and amendments thereto; and for infrastructure expenditures in response to facility or service requirements established by any legislative, regulatory or judicial authority. Such requests shall be subject to simplified filing procedures and the expedited review procedures, as outlined in the stipulation attached to the order of November 19, 1990 in docket no. 127,140-U (Phase IV).

(e) For each local exchange carrier electing pursuant to subsection (b) of K.S.A. 66-2005, and amendments thereto, to operate under traditional rate of return regulation, all KUSF support, including any adjustment thereto pursuant to this section shall be based on such carrier's embedded costs, revenue requirements, investments and expenses.

(f) Additional supplemental funding from the KUSF, other than as provided in subsection (d), may be authorized at the discretion of the commission. However, the commission may require approval of such funding to be based upon a general rate case filing. With respect to any request for additional supplemental funding from the KUSF, the commission shall act expeditiously, but shall not be subject to the 120 day deadline set forth in subsection (d).

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 66-2008 is hereby repealed.

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

Approved April 8, 2008.
