

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO
Sixty-second Legislature First Regular Session - 2013

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1013

BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE ASSISTANCE; AMENDING SECTION 56-901, IDAHO CODE, TO REMOVE REFERENCE TO LINK-UP CONTRIBUTIONS; AND AMENDING SECTION 56-902, IDAHO CODE, TO REMOVE REFERENCE TO LINK-UP CONTRIBUTIONS.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Section 56-901, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

56-901. TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM -- DEFINITIONS. (1) A telecommunications service assistance program is hereby established within the department of health and welfare to provide eligible recipients with a reduction in costs of telecommunications services to promote universal service. The program shall be administered by the department of health and welfare in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and rules and regulations promulgated in compliance with chapter 52, title 67, Idaho Code, to administer the program. The telecommunications service assistance program adopted shall maximize federal "lifeline" and "link-up" contributions to Idaho's low-income customers.

(2) For the purposes of this chapter, a "telecommunications carrier" means a telephone corporation providing telecommunication services for compensation within this state, and shall include municipal, cooperative, or mutual nonprofit telephone companies, and telecommunication corporations providing wireless, cellular, personal communications services and mobile radio services for compensation.

SECTION 2. That Section 56-902, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

56-902. ASSISTANCE RATE DISCOUNT -- FORM -- APPLICABLE SERVICES -- AMOUNT -- APPLICATION. (1) Telecommunication carriers providing residential basic local exchange service shall provide assistance in the form of a monthly discount to eligible subscribers of residential basic local exchange service of three dollars and fifty cents (\$3.50) or an amount authorized by the federal communication commission whichever is greater. In no case will the discount exceed the rate charged for the grade of residential basic local exchange service subscribed to by each eligible individual. The Idaho telecommunications service assistance plan shall only be used to provide for a single residence line at the principal residence of the eligible subscriber.

(2) The providers of residential basic local exchange service and the Idaho department of health and welfare shall comply with all requirements expressly provided by federal order, regulation and statute for eligible

1 subscribers to qualify for the federal "lifeline" and ~~"link-up"~~ telephone
2 assistance program. In accordance with federal law, the Idaho public util-
3 ities commission may grant waivers to carriers of residential basic local
4 exchange service from providing certain services to eligible subscribers.