

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1593

5 By: Representative Collins
6 By: Senator Rapert
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE
10 TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY REFORM ACT OF 2013; TO
11 MODIFY CERTAIN PROVISIONS CONCERNING ELIGIBLE
12 TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIERS TO COMPLY WITH RECENT
13 DEVELOPMENTS IN FEDERAL LAW; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY;
14 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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18 TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE
19 TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY REFORM ACT
20 OF 2013 TO COMPLY WITH RECENT
21 DEVELOPMENTS IN FEDERAL LAW; AND TO
22 DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.
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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 23-17-405(c), concerning eligible
28 telecommunications carriers under the Telecommunications Regulatory Reform
29 Act of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

30 (c)(1) In exchanges, ~~or~~ wire centers, census blocks, or other areas
31 where the commission has designated more than one (1) eligible
32 telecommunications carrier, the commission shall permit a local exchange
33 carrier to relinquish its designation as an eligible telecommunications
34 carrier in any such area, consistent with 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4), upon a
35 finding that at least one (1) eligible telecommunications carrier ~~will~~
36 ~~continue to serve~~ serves the area.



1 (2) In an area in which a local exchange carrier ~~is not an~~ has
 2 relinquished its eligible telecommunications carrier designation, the local
 3 exchange carrier may:

4 (A) Continue providing services, including universal
 5 services; and

6 (B)(i) Discontinue providing services, including universal
 7 services.

8 (ii) If a local exchange carrier discontinues
 9 providing a basic local exchange service under subdivision (c)(2)(B)(i) of
 10 this section, the carrier shall notify affected customers in writing at least
 11 ninety (90) days before discontinuing the service.

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 13 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
 14 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that federal law requires a change
 15 in the Telecommunications Regulatory Reform Act of 2013; that the regulation
 16 of eligible telecommunications carriers under state law must be updated in
 17 order to comply with federal law; and that this act is necessary to avoid a
 18 potential conflict between state and federal law concerning regulation of
 19 eligible telecommunications carriers. Therefore, an emergency is declared to
 20 exist, and this act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace,
 21 health, and safety shall become effective on July 1, 2017.

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 24 **APPROVED: 03/08/2017**
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