

Hall of the House of Representatives
83rd General Assembly - Regular Session, 2001
Amendment Form

Subtitle of House Bill No. 2570

"TO PROVIDE THAT THE ARKANSAS UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND BE USED TO
OFFSET THE COST OF ESTABLISHING PHONE SERVICE TO RURAL AREAS."

Amendment No. 1 to House Bill No. 2570.

Amend House Bill No. 2570 as originally introduced:

Delete the Title and substitute the following:

"AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A GRANT PROGRAM TO ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIERS FOR EXTENSION OF FACILITIES TO UNSERVED CITIZENS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

AND

Delete the Subtitle and substitute the following:

"AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A GRANT PROGRAM TO ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIERS FOR EXTENSION OF FACILITIES TO UNSERVED CITIZENS."

AND

Delete Section 1 of the bill and substitute the following:

"SECTION 1 Arkansas Code 23-17-404(e), concerning the Arkansas Universal Service Fund, is amended by adding an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(8)(A)(i) The Arkansas Public Service Commission shall establish by regulation a grant program to makes grants available to eligible telecommunications carriers for the extension of facilities to citizens unserved by wire line services of an eligible telecommunications carrier. Grants may be requested by an eligible telecommunications carrier, unserved citizens, or both.

(ii) The commission shall delegate to a trustee the administration, collection, and distribution of the Extension of Facilities Fund in accordance with the rules and procedures established by the commission. The trustee shall enforce and implement all rules and directives governing the funding, collection, and eligibility for the Extension of Facilities Fund.

(B)(i) In establishing regulations for the grant program the commission shall consider demonstrated need, the length of time the citizens have been unserved, the households affected, the best use of the funds, and the overall need for extensions throughout the state.

(i) The commission may require each potential customer to be served by the extension of facilities to pay up to two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) of the cost of extending facilities.

(C) The plan shall be funded by customer contributions and by the Arkansas Calling Plan Fund established by the act of the 2001 Regular Session of the Arkansas General Assembly which was introduced as Senate Bill 935.

(D)(i) The commission shall provide quarterly reports to the Legislative Council. The reports shall include, but shall not be limited to, the number of requests for grants, the number of grants awarded, the amount awarded, and the number of additional customers served.

(ii) The commission shall notify members of the General Assembly of grants made in their districts.

(D) In order to allow time for potential applicants to request grants, no grants shall be awarded for three (3) months after the effective date of the rules establishing the program.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly that some areas of the state are not served by wire line services of an eligible telecommunications carrier; that extension of facilities in order to make service available to unserved citizens is a vital health and safety issue; that it is immediately necessary to establish a grant program for extension of facilities. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall become effective on the date of its approval by the Governor. If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, it shall become effective on the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill. If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, it shall become effective on the date the last house overrides the veto."

The Amendment was read _____
By: Representative Hathorn
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Chief Clerk