

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1989

A Bill

SENATE BILL

595

By: Senators Harriman, Walters and Miles

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO PERMIT ACCESS TO TELEPHONE SYSTEMS FOR AMATEUR
RADIO OPERATORS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act may be cited as the "Amateur Radio Act".

SECTION 2. Purposes. This Act shall be liberally construed and applied to promote its underlying purposes, which are to:

- (1) strongly encourage and support the amateur radio service and its contributions to public service and emergency communications efforts; and
- (2) recognize the substantial and invaluable contributions of the amateur radio service to the public health and welfare of the citizens of the State of Arkansas; and
- (3) provide that state agencies shall take into account the valuable contributions made by amateur radio operators in considering actions affecting the amateur radio service; and
- (4) provide access to local telephone communications systems for the Amateur Radio Services and for those purposes authorized by Federal Communications Commissions regulations.

SECTION 3. Access. The Amateur Radio Service shall be permitted access to all publicly regulated telephone systems doing business within the State of Arkansas.

SECTION 4. Rate. All publicly regulated telephone systems within the State of Arkansas shall permit access to their telephone system by the Amateur Radio Service at the lowest residential rate.

SECTION 5. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

SECTION 6. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

SECTION 7. It is hereby found and determined and declared by the General Assembly that there are many instances in which the Amateur Radio Service and the public safety and welfare of the citizens of the State of Arkansas will be better served by providing access to local telephone services for the Amateur Radio Service at the lowest residential rate and thereby encourage and support the implementation and continuation of that mode of amateur communication and recognizing the demands put upon the Amateur Radio Service for storm spotting information during severe weather which normally occurs in the spring each year, this Act should be given effect immediately. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.