

HOUSE BILL 62

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C5

2002 Regular Session
2lr0589

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegate Stern**

Requested: October 3, 2001

Introduced and read first time: January 9, 2002

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Telephone Lifeline Service - Enhanced Enrollment**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Public Service Commission to adopt certain
4 regulations in order to enhance enrollment in the telephone lifeline service by
5 certain methods; requiring the Department of Human Resources, the
6 Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Department of
7 Health and Mental Hygiene, under certain circumstances, to assist the
8 Commission in certain ways; authorizing certain memoranda of understanding;
9 defining certain terms; making a certain technical correction; and generally
10 relating to enhanced enrollment in the telephone lifeline service.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article - Public Utility Companies
13 Section 8-201(a)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (1998 Volume and 2001 Supplement)

16 BY adding to
17 Article - Public Utility Companies
18 Section 8-201(e)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (1998 Volume and 2001 Supplement)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
22 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 **Article - Public Utility Companies**

24 8-201.

25 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

26 (2) ["Telephone lifeline service" means a local telephone service provided
27 to eligible subscribers that, at a discount, provides an individual residential local

1 exchange dial access line plus the first 30 residential local untimed messages per
2 billing month.

3 (3)] "Eligible subscriber" means an individual who is certified to the local
4 telephone company in whose service area the individual is applying for service by the
5 Department of Human Resources as receiving:

6 (I) assistance under Article 88A, §§ 44A through 53 of the Code[,
7 receiving];

8 (II) ASSISTANCE UNDER THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROGRAM
9 ESTABLISHED UNDER § 7-512.1 OF THIS ARTICLE;

10 (III) ASSISTANCE UNDER THE MARYLAND ENERGY ASSISTANCE
11 PROGRAM;

12 (IV) State-funded public assistance benefits[, or receiving]; OR

13 (V) supplemental security income under Title XVI of the federal
14 Social Security Act.

15 (3) "ENHANCED ENROLLMENT" INCLUDES:

16 (I) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION REGARDING THE
17 TELEPHONE LIFELINE SERVICE, INCLUDING ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES, TO
18 APPLICANTS AND PARTICIPANTS IN THE MARYLAND ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM,
19 THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROGRAM, THE MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
20 PROGRAM, OR THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM; AND

21 (II) JOINTLY WITH ONE OR MORE OF THE PROGRAMS LISTED
22 UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH:

23 1. MARKETING THE TELEPHONE LIFELINE SERVICE TO
24 ELIGIBLE SUBSCRIBERS; AND

25 2. ADMINISTRATION OF THE TELEPHONE LIFELINE
26 SERVICE'S APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND RELATED MATTERS.

27 (4) "TELEPHONE LIFELINE SERVICE" MEANS A LOCAL TELEPHONE
28 SERVICE PROVIDED TO ELIGIBLE SUBSCRIBERS THAT, AT A DISCOUNT, PROVIDES AN
29 INDIVIDUAL RESIDENTIAL LOCAL EXCHANGE DIAL ACCESS LINE PLUS THE FIRST 30
30 RESIDENTIAL LOCAL UNTIMED MESSAGES PER BILLING MONTH.

31 (E) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT
32 ENHANCED ENROLLMENT IN THE TELEPHONE LIFELINE SERVICE.

33 (2) THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, THE DEPARTMENT OF
34 HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
35 MENTAL HYGIENE:

1 (I) ON REQUEST OF THE COMMISSION, SHALL ASSIST IN THE
2 ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE REGULATIONS; AND

3 (II) MAY ENTER INTO MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE
4 COMMISSION REGARDING RESPECTIVE DUTIES IN ENHANCED ENROLLMENT
5 MEASURES.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 October 1, 2002.