

HB0472/893994/1

BY: Economic Matters Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 472
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 5, after the first “a” insert “certain”; in line 7, after “circumstances;” insert “providing that a telephone company that is regulated in a certain manner is not required to file with the Commission a certain tariff schedule for certain regulated retail services under certain circumstances; providing that a telephone company that is not regulated in a certain manner is not required to file with the Commission a certain tariff schedule for certain regulated retail services under certain circumstances; authorizing the Commission to issue certain orders or adopt certain regulations;”; strike beginning with “allowing” in line 12 down through “notice;” in line 13 and substitute “requiring the Commission to make a certain determination on certain services on or before a certain date; requiring the Commission to study whether and how a telephone company should be authorized to withdraw certain services in the State; requiring the Commission to make a determination whether certain changes are needed to regulations to ensure that customers are properly and conspicuously notified of certain rate increases; requiring the Commission to report its findings and recommendations of a certain study and determination on or before a certain date;”; and strike in their entirety lines 25 through 28, inclusive.

On page 2, strike line 1, in its entirety.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, after line 15, insert:

“SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Public Utilities”;

(Over)

in line 17, strike “**SUBJECT**” and substitute “**EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C)(1) OF THIS SECTION AND SUBJECT**”; in the same line, strike “**(C)**” and substitute “**(C)(2)**”; and after line 25, insert:

“(C) (1) (I) A TELEPHONE COMPANY THAT IS REGULATED USING AN ALTERNATIVE FORM OF REGULATION UNDER § 4-301 OF THIS TITLE FOR BASKETS OF SERVICES IS NOT REQUIRED TO FILE WITH THE COMMISSION A TARIFF SCHEDULE OF ITS RATES AND CHARGES FOR ITS REGULATED RETAIL SERVICES THAT ARE INCLUDED IN BASKET 4 “DISCRETIONARY SERVICES” AND BASKET 5 “COMPETITIVE SERVICES”.

“(II) A TELEPHONE COMPANY THAT IS NOT REGULATED USING AN ALTERNATIVE FORM OF REGULATION UNDER § 4-301 OF THIS TITLE FOR BASKETS OF SERVICES IS NOT REQUIRED TO FILE WITH THE COMMISSION A TARIFF SCHEDULE OF ITS RATES AND CHARGES FOR ITS REGULATED RETAIL SERVICES THAT, AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION, ARE SIMILAR TO THE SERVICES INCLUDED IN BASKET 4 “DISCRETIONARY SERVICES” AND BASKET 5 “COMPETITIVE SERVICES”.”.

On page 2, in line 26, strike “**(C)**” and substitute “**(2)**”; in the same line, after “**LAW,**” insert “**EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION,**”; in the same line, after “**FINDS**” insert “**AFTER NOTICE AND HEARING**”; in line 28, after “**COMPANY**” insert “**THAT HAS 20,000 OR FEWER SUBSCRIBERS**”; and after line 30, insert:

“(3) THE COMMISSION MAY ISSUE ORDERS OR ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT THE COMMISSION DETERMINES NECESSARY TO REGULATE A SERVICE IN WHICH A TELEPHONE COMPANY IS NOT REQUIRED TO FILE A TARIFF SCHEDULE OF ITS RATES AND CHARGES UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.”.

On page 3, before line 1, insert:

“SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Public Utilities”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 6, strike in their entirety lines 6 through 22, inclusive, and substitute:

“SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before September 1, 2015, the Public Service Commission shall determine, as provided under § 4-202(c)(1)(ii) of the Public Utilities Article, as enacted by Section 2 of this Act, which regulated retail services for a telephone company that is not regulated using an alternative form of regulation are similar to the regulated retail services included in Basket 4 “Discretionary Services” and Basket 5 “Competitive Services”.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before September 1, 2015, the Public Service Commission shall:

(a) (1) study whether and how a telephone company should be authorized to withdraw a regulated retail service in the State; and

(2) determine whether any changes are necessary to current regulations to ensure that customers are properly and conspicuously notified of a rate increase of a regulated retail service; and

(b) report its findings and recommendations from its study under subsection (a)(1) of this section and from its determination under subsection (a)(2) of this section, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Economic Matters Committee.

(Over)

SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall take effect September 1, 2015.”;

in line 23, strike “2.” and substitute “7.”; in the same line, after “Act” insert “, except as provided in Section 6 of this Act.”; and in line 24, strike “October” and substitute “July”.