

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 760
Finance

(Senator Middleton)

Telephone Companies - Competitive Services - Tariffs - Exception

This bill repeals the requirement that a telephone company file a tariff schedule of its rates and charges for regulated services with the Public Service Commission (PSC) as long as PSC has declared that the service is competitive by order or regulation.

A telephone company must publish on its publicly accessible web site terms, conditions, and rates for each of its services which PSC has declared to be competitive. Terms, conditions, or rates that a telephone company has made on an individually negotiated contract basis do not need to be published. A telephone company implementing a charge for a new service or a rate change for a service PSC has deemed to be competitive must notify PSC at least one day before the new rate or charge takes effect.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill would not directly affect governmental operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A public service company must file a tariff schedule of its rates and charges for services regulated by PSC. As ordered by PSC, a company must post the tariff schedule so it can easily be accessed by the public. Before filing a change in rate or instituting a new charge, a public service company must provide notice to PSC and

publish the new rate or charge at least 30 days before the new charge is established or the rate is changed.

Background: PSC has made rulings that certain services provided by Verizon are competitive. PSC also advises that all services, except intrastate switched access and other bottleneck services, provided by non-incumbent carriers have also been ruled competitive.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1097 (Delegate Davis) – Economic Matters.

Information Source(s): Public Service Commission, Office of People’s Counsel, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 6, 2007
ncs/hlb

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