

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 1290

H.P. 887

House of Representatives, March 15, 2005

An Act To Improve Funding for Telecommunications Relay Services

Reference to the Committee on Utilities and Energy suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative BLISS of South Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator BARTLETT of Cumberland and
Representatives: BLANCHARD of Old Town, BRYANT of Windham, PERCY of Phippsburg,
SCHATZ of Blue Hill.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

2
4 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRS §7104, sub-§6** is enacted to read:

6 **6. Telecommunications relay services support.** In order to
8 ensure the affordability of telecommunications relay services
10 throughout the State, the commission shall establish funding
12 support for telecommunications relay services, including related
14 outreach programs, within the state universal service fund
16 established pursuant to subsection 3.

18 A. In establishing the total level of support for the state
20 universal service fund, the commission shall include funding
22 levels for telecommunications relay services as recommended
24 by the Telecommunications Relay Services Advisory Council,
26 as established in section 8704, unless the commission
28 determines, upon its own motion or upon the request of a
30 provider of intrastate telecommunications services, that the
32 recommended funding levels may be unreasonable. If the
34 commission determines that the funding levels may be
36 unreasonable, the commission shall open a proceeding to
38 determine a reasonable funding level for telecommunications
40 relay services, including related outreach programs. Upon
42 the conclusion of the proceeding, the commission shall
44 establish funding support for telecommunications relay
46 services, including related outreach programs, that it has
48 found to be reasonable within the state universal service
50 fund. The commission shall require contributions to the
 state universal service fund on a quarterly basis to meet
 the established funding support levels.

B. In determining reasonable funding levels for
 telecommunications relay services, including related
 outreach programs, the commission may consider whether the
 recommended funding is for telecommunications relay
 services, including related outreach programs, that are:

(1) Federally required services;

(2) Services provided in other states with a similar
 deaf, hard-of-hearing and speech impaired population as
 this State; or

(3) Services that are designed to maximize the
 effectiveness of telecommunications relay services
 through the application of new technologies.

Sec. 2. 35-A MRS §8703, sub-§7, as enacted by PL 1989, c.
851, §7, is amended to read:

