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No. 2103

H.P. 1489

House of Representatives, December 27, 2007

Resolve, Directing the Public Utilities Commission To Study Existing Barriers to Digital Telephone Service Access in Rural Areas of the State

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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

Millicent M. Mac Failand

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND Clerk

Presented by Representative ROBINSON of Raymond. Cosponsored by Senator DIAMOND of Cumberland and Representatives: CEBRA of Naples, FITTS of Pittsfield, MAREAN of Hollis, SARTY of Denmark. Preamble. Whereas, many rural communities are currently unable to access
emerging technological advancements such as digital telephone service; and

3 Whereas, constricting the entry of new technologies into rural communities has had 4 an adverse impact on local businesses as well as on individual users; and

5 Whereas, it is imperative that existing barriers to digital telephone service in rural 6 areas of the State be examined and that solutions be proposed to remedy this problem; 7 now, therefore, be it

8 Sec. 1. Review by Public Utilities Commission. Resolved: That the Public
9 Utilities Commission shall examine the issues associated with access in rural
10 communities to digital telephone services. In reviewing this issue, the commission shall:

Examine the federal laws relevant to access to digital telephone services, including,
but not limited to, laws governing interconnection and rural exemptions imposed under
47 United States Code, Section 251 and section 252;

14 2. Identify existing barriers to access in rural communities to digital telephone 15 services;

16 3. Determine the extent to which such barriers stem from federal law, state law or 17 state rules; and

18 4. Develop a proposal to facilitate the provision of access to digital telephone servicein rural areas of the State; and be it further

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That the Public Utilities Commission shall submit a report with respect to the study under section 1, including recommendations and any necessary implementing legislation, no later than January 15, 2009 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities matters. After receipt and review of the report, the joint standing committee may submit legislation to the First Regular Session of the 124th Legislature.

SUMMARY

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This resolve directs the Public Utilities Commission to examine the issues associated with access in rural communities to digital telephone services, to identify existing barriers to such access and to develop a proposal to facilitate the provision of access to digital telephone service in rural areas of the State. The Public Utilities Commission is directed to submit its report, together with its recommendations and any necessary implementing legislation, no later than January 15, 2009 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities matters.