

1 AN ACT concerning telecommunications.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 5. The Public Utilities Act is amended by  
5 changing Section 13-301.1 as follows:

6 (220 ILCS 5/13-301.1) (from Ch. 111 2/3, par. 13-301.1)

7 Sec. 13-301.1. Universal Telephone Service Assistance  
8 Program.

9 (a) The Commission shall by rule or regulation establish  
10 a Universal Telephone Service Assistance Program for low  
11 income residential customers. The program shall provide for a  
12 reduction of access line charges, a reduction of connection  
13 charges, or any other alternative to increase accessibility  
14 to telephone service that the Commission deems advisable  
15 subject to the availability of funds for the program as  
16 provided in subsection (d)(b). The Commission shall  
17 establish eligibility requirements for benefits under the  
18 program.

19 (b) The Commission shall adopt rules providing for  
20 enhanced enrollment for eligible consumers to receive  
21 lifeline service. Enhanced enrollment may include, but is  
22 not limited to, joint marketing, joint application, or joint  
23 processing with the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance  
24 Program, the Medicaid program, or the Food Stamp program.  
25 The Department of Human Services, the Department of Public  
26 Aid, and the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs,  
27 upon request of the Commission, shall assist in the adoption  
28 and implementation of those rules. The Commission and the  
29 Department of Human Services, the Department of Public Aid,  
30 and the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs may  
31 enter into memoranda of understanding establishing the

1 respective duties of the Commission and the Departments in  
2 relation to enhanced enrollment.

3 (c) In this Section, "lifeline service" means a retail  
4 local service offering described by 47 C.F.R. Section  
5 54.401(a), as amended.

6 (d) ~~(b)~~ The Commission shall require by rule or  
7 regulation that each telecommunications carrier providing  
8 local exchange telecommunications services notify its  
9 customers that if the customer wishes to participate in the  
10 funding of the Universal Telephone Service Assistance Program  
11 he may do so by electing to contribute, on a monthly basis, a  
12 fixed amount that will be included in the customer's monthly  
13 bill. The customer may cease contributing at any time upon  
14 providing notice to the telecommunications carrier providing  
15 local exchange telecommunications services. The notice shall  
16 state that any contribution made will not reduce the  
17 customer's bill for telecommunications services. Failure to  
18 remit the amount of increased payment will reduce the  
19 contribution accordingly. The Commission shall specify the  
20 monthly fixed amount or amounts that customers wishing to  
21 contribute to the funding of the Universal Telephone Service  
22 Assistance Program may choose from in making their  
23 contributions. Every telecommunications carrier providing  
24 local exchange telecommunications services shall remit the  
25 amounts contributed in accordance with the terms of the  
26 Universal Telephone Service Assistance Program.

27 (Source: P.A. 87-750; 90-372, eff. 7-1-98.)