

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 131

Session of  
1981

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INTRODUCED BY J. L. WRIGHT AND BURNS, NOVEMBER 24, 1981

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, NOVEMBER 24, 1981

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In the House of Representatives, November 24, 1981

1       This Commonwealth has long been a national leader in  
2       supporting the rights of handicapped and disadvantaged persons,  
3       including the deaf, hearing-impaired and speech-impaired.

4       The law of this Commonwealth requires every public utility,  
5       including telephone companies, to furnish and maintain such  
6       adequate, efficient, just and reasonable service, equipment,  
7       instrumentalities and facilities as are necessary to promote the  
8       health, safety, comfort and convenience of its customers,  
9       subscribers, employees and the public.

10      The Public Utility Commission regulates rates and charges for  
11      telephone service.

12      Telephone rates and charges are required to be just,  
13      reasonable and nondiscriminatory.

14      The General Assembly recognizes that deaf, hearing-impaired  
15      and speech-impaired persons incur added expense for long-  
16      distance telephone service in attempting to compensate for their  
17      disability; therefore be it

1       RESOLVED, That the Public Utility Commission is requested to  
2 hold hearings to investigate and study ways to establish, if  
3 feasible, lower long-distance rates applicable to the  
4 establishment for and the utilization of telecommunication  
5 devices by deaf, hearing-impaired and speech-impaired persons  
6 who are required because of their disabilities to use special  
7 telecommunication devices, so that more deaf, hearing-impaired  
8 and speech-impaired persons may utilize those devices; and be it  
9 further

10       RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the  
11 Public Utility Commission.