THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 750

Session of 1985

INTRODUCED BY JOHNSON, PETRARCA, CIVERA, CORDISCO, BELARDI, ANGSTADT, VROON, CIMINI, OLASZ, ARTY AND KUKOVICH, APRIL 9, 1985

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS, APRIL 9, 1985

AN ACT

- 1 Amending Title 66 (Public Utilities) of the Pennsylvania
- 2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for the needs of the deaf or
- 3 severely hearing impaired.
- 4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- 5 hereby enacts as follows:
- 6 Section 1. Title 66 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
- 7 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:
- 8 § 1511. Servicing needs of deaf or severely hearing impaired.
- 9 The commission shall implement a program whereby each
- 10 telephone corporation shall provide a telecommunications device
- 11 capable of servicing the needs of the deaf or severely hearing
- 12 impaired, together with a single party line, to any subscriber
- 13 who is certified as deaf or severely hearing impaired by a
- 14 licensed physician or audiologist or a qualified Commonwealth
- 15 agency. The commission shall establish a sliding fee scale for
- 16 the rental of such devices based on the income of the deaf or
- 17 severely hearing impaired person. Deaf or severely hearing
- 18 impaired persons having an annual household income of less than

- \$9,000 shall be provided with a device at no charge. The 1
- 2 <u>commission shall establish a rate recovery mechanism to allow</u>
- 3 <u>telephone corporations to recover any costs incurred under this</u>
- 4 <u>section which are not recovered through the sliding fee scale.</u>
- 5 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.