

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 341

PRINTER NO. 375

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

March 10, 2021

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Phillips-Hill

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 341 amends Title 66 (Public Utilities) to provide for telecommunication carrier regulatory relief.

The legislation requires the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (commission) to permanently waive the following regulations within 30 days:

- 52 Pa. Code Section 53 (Relating to Tariffs for Noncommon Carriers);
- 52 Pa. Code Section 53.57 (Relating to Definitions);
- 52 Pa. Code Section 53.58 (Relating to Offering of Competitive Services);
- 52 Pa. Code Section 53.59 (Relating to Cost Support Requirements and Effective Filing Dates for Tariff Filings of Noncompetitive Services);
- 52 Pa. Code Section 53.60 (Relating to Supporting Documentation for Promotional Offerings, Joint or Bundled Service Packages, and Toll Services);
- 52 Pa. Code Section 53.85 (Relating to Paper Billing Fees);
- 52 Pa. Code Chapter 63 (Relating to Telephone Service); and
- 52 Pa. Code Chapter 64 (Relating to Standards and Billing Practices for Residential Telephone Service).

The following provisions of 52 Pa. Code are exempt from the waiver:

- Section 63.37 (Relating to Operations of the Telecommunications Relay Service System and Relay Service Fund);
- Chapter 63L (Relating to Universal Services);
- Chapter 63O (Relating to Abbreviated Procedures for Review and Approval of Transfer of Control for Telecommunications Public Utilities); and
- Section 64.23 (Relating to Standardizing LEC Responses to Customer Contacts Alleging Unauthorized Charges Assed to the Customer's Bill (Cramming) and Unauthorized Changes to the Customer's Long Distance Carrier (Slamming)).

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Senate Bill 341 requires the commission to undertake a review of all regulations (other than the specifically exempted ones) applicable to telecommunications carriers every three years. The commission must rescind regulations that are no longer necessary or in the public interest. Any new regulations applicable to telecommunications carriers must be supported by factual findings and determinations, based on an evidentiary record; demonstrate need for the regulation given the emergence of new industry participants, technological changes, electronic means for billing and customer notices, costs of compliance and consumer preference in the competitive market; and have benefits that outweigh the cost to comply with and enforce the regulation.

Senate Bill 341 requires the commission to contact the local exchange telecommunications company regarding a customer issue or dispute to allow the local exchange telecommunications company to make a good faith effort to resolve the matter. If it cannot be resolved in 30 days, the local exchange telecommunications company must inform the commission so the commission may advise the customer on mediation before the commission. In addition, the legislation requires the local exchange telecommunications company to make a good faith effort to establish a mutually agreeable date and appointment window for customer voice service installation or repair appointments.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to Commonwealth funds. Senate Bill 341 requires the commission to review regulations every three years, which according to the commission can be accomplished within existing staffing and funding levels.