
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1096 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY DELOZIER, OCTOBER 20, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS, OCTOBER 20, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance committee to study
2 and report on the extent of competition in this
3 Commonwealth's communications industry and the impact of the
4 transition to new technologies on the availability and
5 affordability of clear and reliable voice service for all
6 Pennsylvanians.

7 WHEREAS, The communications landscape continues to be
8 transformed through technological innovation and the adoption of
9 new networks that can deliver communications services faster and
10 more efficiently; and

11 WHEREAS, The introduction of these new technologies has
12 provided consumers with unprecedented choice and availability of
13 voice and broadband services, available to them as well as the
14 number of carriers providing such services; and

15 WHEREAS, The increase in competition and the transition to
16 new technologies continues to put pressure on the regulatory
17 framework that has governed this Commonwealth's
18 telecommunications industry for more than 100 years; and

19 WHEREAS, As a result of increased competition, this
20 Commonwealth's incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs)

1 continue to push for significant changes in the Commonwealth's
2 regulatory regime that will allow them freedom from
3 longstanding regulatory obligations; and

4 WHEREAS, Any potential changes to the Commonwealth's
5 telecommunications regulatory construct to provide ILECs with
6 regulatory relief must be measured against the longstanding
7 basic public policy tenet of universal telecommunications
8 services at affordable rates; and

9 WHEREAS, Prior to the consideration of any statutory changes
10 that would alter the historic regulatory compact that has served
11 and protected this Commonwealth's consumers for more than a
12 century, the General Assembly must have a strong understanding
13 of the extent to which competition exists in this Commonwealth's
14 communications marketplace, as well as the impact that the
15 transition to new technologies and new networks will have on
16 public safety, network reliability and affordability; therefore
17 be it

18 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
19 conduct a comprehensive study into the level of competition that
20 exists in this Commonwealth's marketplaces, including the
21 following:

22 (1) The number of exchanges with providers of "clear and
23 reliable" voice service.

24 (2) The number of providers of "clear and reliable"
25 voice service.

26 (3) The technology being utilized to provide "clear and
27 reliable" voice service in each exchange.

28 (4) The percentage of residential and business consumers
29 in each exchange that have voluntarily chosen to utilize a
30 different provider or new technology for their voice

1 services;

2 and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
4 study the ability of Internet protocol networks, delivered over
5 coaxial cable, wireless and fiber, to meet fundamental consumer
6 needs and public policy objectives of universal service,
7 affordability, public safety and network reliability; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
10 study the impact of deregulation on the disposition of the ILECs
11 copper network by considering, at minimum, the following:

12 (1) The impact of deregulation legislation in other
13 states on the copper networks of ILECs in such states.

14 (2) Any and all evidence of ILECs "retiring" their
15 copper network where the carrier-of-last-resort obligation no
16 longer exists.

17 (3) The ability of this Commonwealth's ILECs to meet
18 obligations under 66 Pa.C.S. Ch. 30 for ubiquitous broadband
19 deployment in franchised service territory.

20 (4) The extent to which deregulation legislation in
21 other states has resulted in increased ILEC investment in new
22 networks/infrastructure;

23 and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
25 study the potential economic impact of the General Assembly
26 increasing the minimum broadband speeds contained in 66 Pa.C.S.
27 Ch. 30, using the following standards:

28 (1) A minimum download speed of 15 mbps.

29 (2) A minimum upload speed of 5 mbps;

30 and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
2 study the impact of deregulation on employment in the
3 telecommunications industry by, at a minimum, studying other
4 states that have enacted deregulation legislation to determine
5 the number of ILECs employees by job classification prior to
6 deregulation legislation being enacted, as well as the number of
7 ILECs employees by job classification subsequent to deregulation
8 legislation being enacted; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
10 report its findings to the House of Representatives by November
11 30, 2016.