

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the administration of the universal service fund.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

4 SECTION 1. Section 56.021, Utilities Code, is amended to
5 read as follows:

6 Sec. 56.021. UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND ESTABLISHED. The
7 commission shall adopt and enforce rules requiring local exchange
8 companies to establish a universal service fund to:

9 (1) assist telecommunications providers in providing
10 basic local telecommunications service at reasonable rates in high
11 cost rural areas under two plans:

12 (A) the Texas High Cost Universal Service Plan
13 (16 T.A.C. Section 26.403); and

14 (B) the Small and Rural Incumbent Local Exchange
15 Company Universal Service Plan (16 T.A.C. Section 26.404);

16 (2) reimburse the telecommunications carrier that
17 provides the statewide telecommunications relay access service
18 under Subchapter D;

19 (3) finance the specialized telecommunications
20 assistance program established under Subchapter E;

21 (4) reimburse the department, the Texas Commission for
22 the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and the commission for costs incurred
23 in implementing this chapter and Chapter 57;

24 (5) reimburse a telecommunications carrier providing

1 lifeline service as provided by 47 C.F.R. Part 54, Subpart E, as
2 amended;

3 (6) finance the implementation and administration of
4 an integrated eligibility process created under Section 17.007 for
5 customer service discounts relating to telecommunications
6 services, including outreach expenses the commission determines
7 are reasonable and necessary;

8 (7) reimburse a designated provider under Subchapter
9 F;

10 (8) reimburse a successor utility under Subchapter G;
11 and

12 (9) finance the program established under Subchapter
13 H.

14 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
16 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
18 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

David Dewhurst

President of the Senate

Joe Straus

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2295 was passed by the House on May 5, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 146, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

Robert Haney

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2295 was passed by the Senate on May 20, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Aetsy Spaw

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: 17 JUN '11

Date

Rick Perry

Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
4:00 PM O'CLOCK

JUN 17 2011

Boye R. Davis

Secretary of State