

No. 591, A.]

[Published June 27, 1955.]

## CHAPTER 284

AN ACT to create 196.605 of the statutes, relating to deposits of equity capital by patrons of telephone co-operatives financed by federal loans, and granting rule-making authority.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

196.605 of the statutes is created to read:

196.605 TELEPHONE CO-OPERATIVES; FEDERAL LOANS AND CONDITIONS THEREOF. (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, any public utility which is a co-operative association incorporated under ch. 185 to furnish telephone service in rural areas on a nonprofit basis with a telephone system financed in part through a loan or loans from United States of America under the rural electrification act of 1936, as amended, may require each of its local service telephone patrons to deposit with the association the amount of the membership fee or other form of capital representing the pro rata share of the total equity capital of the association required as a condition of such federal financing. Such membership fee or other form of equity capital attributable to each local service patron may be collected by the association in instalments in connection with billings for service. Such required deposits of equity capital shall be segregated in the billing from service charges and shall be credited when received on the membership or equity capital account of the patron.

(2) The amount of the membership fee or equity capital to be so required of each local service telephone patron may be based upon reasonable classifications of service and appropriate factors relating to the cost of rendition of such service. Such amounts, classifications and the manner of collecting such amounts shall be subject to the approval of the commission and the commission is authorized to promulgate rules pertaining thereto.

Approved June 22, 1955.