



State of Wisconsin
2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-1269/P2
MDK:emw

DOA:.....LeRoy, BB0165 - Transfer Relay Service Program to PSC

FOR 2017-2019 BUDGET -- NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION

AN ACT ...; relating to: the budget.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

STATE GOVERNMENT

OTHER STATE GOVERNMENT

This bill transfers the administration of telecommunications relay service from DOA to PSC. Current law does not define “telecommunications relay service,” but it refers to a service that allows individuals with speech or hearing challenges to engage in voice telecommunications in a manner that is functionally equivalent to individuals without those challenges.

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

SECTION 1. 20.505 (1) (ir) of the statutes is renumbered 20.155 (1) (i).

****NOTE: This SECTION involves a change in an appropriation that must be reflected in the revised schedule in s. 20.005, stats.

SECTION 2. 196.858 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

196.858 (1) The commission shall annually assess against local exchange and interexchange telecommunications utilities the total, not to exceed \$5,000,000, of the amounts appropriated under s. ~~20.505 (1) (ir)~~ 20.155 (1) (i).

SECTION 3. 196.858 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

196.858 (2) The commission shall assess a sum equal to the annual total amount under sub. (1) to local exchange and interexchange telecommunications utilities in proportion to their gross operating revenues during the last calendar year. If total expenditures for ~~telephone~~ telecommunications relay service exceeded the payment made under this section in the prior year, the commission shall charge the remainder to assessed telecommunications utilities in proportion to their gross operating revenues during the last calendar year. A telecommunications utility shall pay the assessment within 30 days after the bill has been mailed to the assessed telecommunication utility. The bill constitutes notice of the assessment and demand of payment. Payments shall be credited to the appropriation account under s. ~~20.505 (1) (ir)~~ 20.155 (1) (i).

SECTION 9101. Nonstatutory provisions; Administration.

(1) TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY SERVICE.

(a) *Position transfer.* On the effective date of this paragraph, 1.0 FTE PR position, and the incumbent employee holding that position, in the department of administration responsible for administering telecommunications relay service, as determined by the secretary of administration, is transferred to the public service commission.

(b) *Employee status.* The employee transferred under paragraph (a) has all the rights and the same status under chapter 230 of the statutes in the public service commission that the employee enjoyed in the department of administration

immediately before the transfer. Notwithstanding section 230.28 (4) of the statutes, if the employee transferred under paragraph (a) attained permanent status in class before the transfer, the employee is not required to serve a probationary period.

(c) *Contracts.* All contracts entered into by the department of administration in effect on the effective date of this paragraph that are primarily related to telecommunications relay service, as determined by the secretary of administration, remain in effect and are transferred to the public service commission. The public service commission shall carry out any obligations under those contracts unless modified or rescinded by the commission to the extent allowed under the contracts.

(d) *Assets and liabilities.* On the effective date of this paragraph, the assets and liabilities of the department of administration primarily related to telecommunications relay service, as determined by the secretary of administration, become the assets and liabilities of the public service commission.

(e) *Tangible personal property.* On the effective date of this paragraph, all tangible personal property, including records, of the department of administration that is primarily related to telecommunications relay service, as determined by the secretary of administration, is transferred to the public service commission.

(END)