

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6046**

Chapter 404, Laws of 1997

55th Legislature  
1997 Regular Session

UNIVERSAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE STUDY

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/27/97

Passed by the Senate April 19, 1997  
YEAS 46 NAYS 0

BRAD OWEN

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**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 8, 1997  
YEAS 98 NAYS 0

CLYDE BALLARD

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**Speaker of the  
House of Representatives**

Approved May 16, 1997

CERTIFICATE

I, Mike O Connell, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6046** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

MIKE O'CONNELL

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**Secretary**

FILED

May 16, 1997 - 3:30 p.m.

GARY LOCKE

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6046**

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AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 1997 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      55th Legislature                      1997 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Energy & Utilities (originally sponsored by  
Senator Finkbeiner)

Read first time 03/05/97.

1            AN ACT Relating to a study by the utilities and transportation  
2 commission on universal telecommunications service; and creating new  
3 sections.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that in a competitive  
6 telecommunications industry, telecommunications companies may be less  
7 inclined to invest in facilities to serve sparsely populated or hard-  
8 to-serve areas of the state. The legislature further finds that in  
9 order to secure for all consumers of the state the benefits of high  
10 quality telecommunications service and evolving telecommunications  
11 technology, it is necessary to study the creation of a universal  
12 service fund. The purpose of this fund would be to provide an  
13 incentive to telecommunications carriers to build facilities to provide  
14 universal service and to serve sparsely populated and hard-to-serve  
15 areas of the state while preserving to consumers in those areas the  
16 availability of telecommunications services at rates which are  
17 comparable to rates in urban areas and are affordable.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    By January 1, 1998, or within six months of  
2 the date the federal communications commission adopts universal service  
3 rules as required by the federal telecommunications act of 1996 (110  
4 Stat. 56; P.L. 104-104), whichever is later, the utilities and  
5 transportation commission shall study and make recommendations on the  
6 future of providing universal telecommunications services in this  
7 state. The study shall include at least the following topics: A  
8 recommended definition of basic service for telecommunications; an  
9 analysis of the range of potential telecommunications carriers,  
10 including wireless; an analysis of the proper cost methodologies for  
11 determining universal service funding; and options for generating and  
12 disbursing universal service funding. The study shall be reported to  
13 the energy and utilities committees of the house of representatives and  
14 the senate.

Passed the Senate April 19, 1997.

Passed the House April 8, 1997.

Approved by the Governor May 16, 1997.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 16, 1997.