
SENATE BILL 6046

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senator Finkbeiner

Read first time 03/04/97. Referred to Committee on Energy & Utilities.

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 will 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, the commission shall
2 study and make recommendations on the future of providing universal
3 telecommunications services in this state. The study shall include at
4 least the following topics: A recommended definition of basic service
5 for telecommunications; an analysis of the range of potential
6 telecommunications carriers; an analysis of the proper cost
7 methodologies for determining universal service funding; and options
8 for generating and disbursing universal service funding. The study
9 shall be reported to the energy and utilities committees of the house
10 of representatives and the senate.

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