

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6046

55th Legislature
1997 Regular Session

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

President of the Senate

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

**Speaker of the
House of Representatives**

Approved

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.

Secretary

FILED

Governor of the State of Washington

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6046

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.

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