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HOUSE BILL 2914

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Poulsen, Bush, Ruderman, Morris, DeBolt, Reardon, Kastama, Cooper and Veloria

Read first time 01/24/2000. Referred to Committee on Technology, Telecommunications & Energy.

1 AN ACT Relating to telecommunications customers; adding new  
2 sections to chapter 43.10 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 80.36  
3 RCW; creating a new section; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that as the state  
6 approaches telecommunications deregulation, telecommunications  
7 customers are in need of access to clear pricing information concerning  
8 voice grade telecommunications services.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The attorney general shall establish and  
10 manage an internet site that serves as a central information  
11 clearinghouse for telecommunications information. The clearinghouse  
12 shall convey telecommunications information to the public in an easily  
13 ascertainable format. The information shall include, without  
14 limitation, information about telecommunications calling plans and  
15 pricing for technologies that permit voice and data telecommunications.

16 The attorney general may contract with a private entity or entities  
17 to carry out the requirements of this section.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    The central information clearinghouse  
2 created in section 2 of this act shall contain, at a minimum,  
3 information concerning the following: Residential and business calling  
4 plans; interstate long distance and intrastate long-distance calling  
5 plans; interlata and intralata calling plans; dial-around plans;  
6 billing increments; applicable variances in costs by time of day or  
7 otherwise; activation or installation fees; monthly charges; and  
8 periodic minimum costs.

9        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    In order to establish and maintain the  
10 central information clearinghouse created in section 2 of this act, the  
11 attorney general may receive certain information from the commission.  
12 The commission shall provide, and maintain the accuracy of descriptions  
13 of, the following information to the attorney general: Federal and  
14 state surcharges and fees; federal and state universal service charges  
15 and fees; an explanation of the alternative titles used by companies to  
16 identify these charges and fees on telephone bills; and information  
17 where a customer can file a complaint.

18        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    (1) Sections 2 and 3 of this act are each  
19 added to chapter 43.10 RCW.

20        (2) Section 4 of this act is added to chapter 80.36 RCW.

21        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 6.**    If any provision of this act or its  
22 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
23 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
24 persons or circumstances is not affected.

25        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 7.**    This act is necessary for the immediate  
26 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
27 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
28 immediately.

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