
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5156

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Energy, Telecommunications & Utilities
(originally sponsored by Senators Sutherland, Gaspard, Sellar,
Hochstatter and Loveland)

Read first time 01/25/95.

1 AN ACT Relating to promoting competition for long distance
2 telecommunications; adding a new section to chapter 80.36 RCW; creating
3 new sections; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature has declared the policy of
6 the state of Washington in RCW 80.36.300 to be in favor of promoting
7 diversity in the supply of telecommunications services and products in
8 telecommunications markets throughout the state, ever since the
9 federally ordered divestiture of the Bell System in 1984. That
10 divestiture separated the Bell System into: (1) Local service
11 companies, limited to just service within defined geographic areas
12 called local access transport areas and known as LATAs; and (2) an
13 interexchange or inter-LATA company, which is free to provide any
14 lawful service but can not purchase the operations of its divested
15 operating companies. The expectation was that the operating companies
16 would be permitted to compete in the inter-LATA arena as soon as
17 interexchange providers could legally compete intra-LATA. In
18 Washington, it has been lawful since 1985 for any company to provide
19 any telecommunications service so long as it was properly registered

1 with the Washington utilities and transportation commission. The only
2 exceptions to this freedom for all telecommunications carriers in this
3 state to compete in all markets is that the largest carrier in the
4 state, which serves most of the state's citizens and geography, remains
5 prohibited from providing inter-LATA telecommunications services, and
6 the second largest exchange company in the state may only provide
7 inter-LATA services through a separate subsidiary. The legislature
8 finds that these prohibitions and restrictions are unreasonable and are
9 frustrating diversity of supply in all telecommunications markets in
10 the state and harming the fair competitive provision of all carriers of
11 all telecommunications services.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 80.36 RCW
13 to read as follows:

14 In order to promote diversity of supply and competition in the
15 provision of all services in the state, the commission shall require
16 all carriers that are registered to provide service in this state to
17 allow their customers to select the carrier the customers wish to
18 provide their one plus dialed service. However, the commission shall
19 not require any change in current intra-LATA one plus dialing patterns
20 until all carriers are permitted to provide inter-LATA service on an
21 integrated basis.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act shall be known as the fair long
23 distance telecommunications competition act.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
25 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
26 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
27 effect July 1, 1995.

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