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SENATE BILL 5156

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State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senators Sutherland, Gaspard, Sellar, Hochstatter and Loveland

Read first time 01/12/95. Referred to Committee on Energy,  
Telecommunications & Utilities.

1 AN ACT Relating to promoting competition for long distance  
2 telecommunications; adding new sections 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 exchange services through a separate subsidiary. The legislature finds  
8 that these prohibitions and restrictions are unreasonable and are  
9 frustrating diversity of supply in all telecommunications markets in  
10 the state.

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

13 The policy of the state of Washington is in favor of the fair  
14 competitive provision by all carriers of all telecommunications  
15 services. Therefore, changing dialing patterns for intra-LATA toll in  
16 Washington state is prohibited until all carriers may provide inter-  
17 LATA, including interstate, as well as intra-LATA service on an  
18 integrated basis.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 80.36 RCW  
20 to read as follows:

21 In order to promote diversity of supply and competition in the  
22 provision of all services in the state, the commission shall require  
23 all carriers that are registered to provide service in this state to  
24 allow their customers to select the carrier the customers wish to  
25 provide their one plus dialed service. However, the commission shall  
26 not require any change in current intra-LATA one plus dialing patterns  
27 until all carriers are permitted to provide inter-LATA service on an  
28 integrated basis.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act shall be known as the fair long  
30 distance telecommunications competition act.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
32 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the

1 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take  
2 effect July 1, 1995.

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