

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5536

52nd Legislature
1991 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate April 22, 1991
Yeas 46 Nays 0

President of the Senate

Passed by the House April 17, 1991
Yeas 96 Nays 0

**Speaker of the
House of Representatives**

Approved

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Gordon Golob, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5536** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

Secretary

FILED

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5536

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 1991 Regular Session

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Energy & Utilities (originally sponsored by Senators Thorsness, Rasmussen, Madsen, L. Kreidler, A. Smith, Erwin, Newhouse, Jesernig, Sutherland, Saling, Bauer and Stratton).

Read first time February 18, 1991.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the telecommunications devices for
2 the deaf task force; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

5 (1) Operation of the state-wide telecommunications devices for the
6 deaf (TDD) relay service has become an integral and important part of
7 the state's telecommunications network;

8 (2) The Washington state TDD relay service (WSTRS) has, since it
9 began twenty-four-hour operation in November 1989, provided pioneering
10 service to the deaf, hearing-impaired, and speech-impaired citizens of
11 this state by utilizing the best available technology;

12 (3) In its report to the legislature in December 1990, the
13 department of social and health services identified a number of major
14 issues and alternative approaches for the continued operation of the
15 WSTRS, including blockage rate, limitations on demand for system usage,

1 funding, operational structure, toll call billing, regional systems
2 with other states, and technological changes;

3 (4) The federal Americans with disabilities act (ADA), enacted in
4 July 1990, requires that state-wide TDD relay services must be
5 available in every state by July 1993, and must comply with the
6 requirements of the federal legislation and with regulations to be
7 adopted by the federal communications commission by July 1991; and

8 (5) It is in the best interests of the citizens of this state that
9 the provision of state-wide TDD relay services in Washington be
10 assessed in light of the new federal requirements, the ongoing problems
11 and issues identified in the department of social and health services
12 report, and potentially cost-effective technological improvements.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The telecommunications devices for
14 the deaf (TDD) task force is created, consisting of the secretary of
15 the department of social and health services and the director of the
16 department of information services, or their designees, and the chair
17 of the utilities and transportation commission, or his or her designee.
18 The department of information services shall serve as the lead agency
19 of the task force.

20 (2) The task force shall create a working group that includes
21 representatives of a broad range of affected interests, including
22 telecommunications companies engaged in both interstate and intrastate
23 communications, the hearing-impaired communities and agencies, and the
24 speech-impaired community and agencies. To the extent possible, the
25 members of the working group should be persons that have been or are
26 members of the TDD advisory committee established under RCW 43.20A.730.
27 The working group shall provide information, advice, and technical
28 assistance to the task force.

1 (3) The task force shall report to the energy and utilities
2 committees of the house of representatives and the senate by December
3 15, 1991, on its findings and recommendations. The report shall, at a
4 minimum, address the following:

5 (a) The requirements of the Americans with disabilities act, and
6 the regulations promulgated by the federal communications commission to
7 implement the act, including federal requirements as to funding
8 mechanisms, blockage rate, and confidentiality;

9 (b) The issues identified in the December 1990 report of the
10 department of social and health services with regard to the operation
11 of the Washington state TDD relay service, and particularly alternative
12 operation and management structures, the utility of new cost-effective
13 technology, regional cooperation with other states, competition and
14 access to a variety of local carriers, utilization of the state's SCAN
15 lines, and line blockage;

16 (c) The advantages and disadvantages of allowing carriers to
17 determine how they should meet the requirements of the Americans with
18 disabilities act, or whether the state should take the lead in devising
19 or maintaining a state-wide TDD relay system that would meet those
20 requirements; and

21 (d) Whether the task force should continue its work on issues that
22 are complex, where there appears to be no consensus on any proposed
23 direction or solution, or where the requirements of federal law have
24 not been made clear.

25 The report shall contain recommendations or alternatives for
26 legislative action.