

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 57

SESSION: 2009 Regular Session

TOPIC: Telecommunications regulation

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Overview

Chapter 57 deregulates some telecommunications services to businesses and contains new language regarding service promotions.

Section 1 expands the definition of “competitive area” from exchanges in the metropolitan area extended toll-free calling area, Duluth and St. Cloud to include all exchanges in Minnesota. That means that prices charged to a business customer by a telephone company or telecommunications carrier are not subject to rate regulation, provided that companies do not price services below the long-run incremental cost of providing those services.

Section 2 strikes three provisions in current law regarding service promotions:

- a 90-day limit on the length of promotions and a 9-month limit on benefits from a promotion that accrue to a particular customer;
- a requirement to file information showing that the price exceeds the incremental cost of service with the Public Utilities Commission or the Attorney General; and
- with respect to a service subject to the commission’s regulatory jurisdiction offered as part of a bundle, the requirement that the tariff describe the non-telecommunication components of the bundle.

Section 2 also requires that a promotion exceeding 90 days must be made available to qualifying carriers for resale, provided the carrier has a certificate of authority from the commission and an approved interconnection agreement with the company offering the promotion.

Section 3 provides that provisions of Minnesota Rules inconsistent with the changes made in Section 2 are superseded. Section 4 repeals the expiration date of August 1, 2010, for the section of law amended by Section 2 of this act.