Florida House of Representatives - 1998

CS/HB 3291

By the Committee on Utilities & Communications and Representatives Valdes, Garcia, Morse, Barreiro, Logan, Bush, Meek, Lynn, Posey, Wasserman Schultz, Sanderson, Eggelletion, Littlefield, Bradley, Smith, Betancourt, Villalobos, Lacasa, (Additional Sponsors on Last Printed Page)

1 A bill to be entitled An act relating to use of rights-of-way by 2 3 telecommunications companies; amending s. 4 337.401, F.S.; limiting taxes, fees, or charges 5 imposed by municipalities for use of rights-of-way; limiting local government 6 7 authority to regulate certain matters within 8 the jurisdiction of the Florida Public Service 9 Commission or the Federal Communications Commission; prohibiting requiring 10 11 telecommunications companies from obtaining 12 additional consent to use certain rights-of-way 13 under certain circumstances; providing construction; providing application; providing 14 15 a definition; providing an effective date. 16 17 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds it necessary to clarify 18 the authority of local governmental entities over the 19 operations of telecommunications companies and their occupancy of roads and rights-of-way, NOW, THEREFORE, 20 21 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 22 23 Section 337.401, Florida Statutes, is 24 Section 1. 25 amended to read: 26 337.401 Use of right-of-way for utilities subject to 27 regulation; permit; fees.--28 The department and local governmental entities, (1)referred to in ss. 337.401-337.404 as the "authority," that 29 have jurisdiction and control of public roads or publicly 30 owned rail corridors are authorized to prescribe and enforce 31 1

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1 reasonable rules or regulations with reference to the placing 2 and maintaining along, across, or on any road or publicly 3 owned rail corridors under their respective jurisdictions any 4 electric transmission, telephone, or telegraph lines; pole 5 lines; poles; railways; ditches; sewers; water, heat, or gas 6 mains; pipelines; fences; gasoline tanks and pumps; or other 7 structures hereinafter referred to as the "utility."

8 (2) The authority may grant to any person who is a 9 resident of this state, or to any corporation which is organized under the laws of this state or licensed to do 10 business within this state, the use of a right-of-way for the 11 utility in accordance with such rules or regulations as the 12 13 authority may adopt. No utility shall be installed, located, or relocated unless authorized by a written permit issued by 14 the authority. The permit shall require the permitholder to 15 16 be responsible for any damage resulting from the issuance of such permit. The authority may initiate injunctive 17 proceedings as provided in s. 120.69 to enforce provisions of 18 this subsection or any rule or order issued or entered into 19 20 pursuant thereto.

21 (3) If any municipality municipal authority requires 22 any telecommunications telephone company to pay a fee or other consideration as a condition for granting permission to occupy 23 municipal streets and rights-of-way for poles, wires, and 24 25 other fixtures, such fee or consideration may not exceed 1 26 percent of the gross receipts on recurring local service 27 revenues for services provided within the corporate limits of 28 the municipality by such telecommunications telephone company. 29 Included within such 1-percent maximum fee or consideration are all taxes, licenses, fees, in-kind contributions accepted 30 pursuant to subsection (5), and other impositions except ad 31

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1 valorem taxes and amounts for assessments for special 2 benefits, such as sidewalks, street pavings, and similar 3 improvements, and occupational license taxes levied or imposed 4 by a municipality upon the <u>telecommunications</u> telephone 5 company. This subsection shall not impair any franchise in 6 existence on July 1, 1985.

7 (4) A municipality may by ordinance enter into an 8 agreement with any person providing telecommunication services defined in s. 203.012(7) as a condition for granting 9 permission to occupy or use any city street, alley, viaduct, 10 11 elevated roadway, bridge, or other public way. The agreement 12 shall permit the telecommunication service provider to 13 construct, operate, maintain, repair, rebuild, or replace a 14 telecommunications route within a municipal right-of-way. The agreement shall provide for a fee or other consideration 15 16 payable annually based on actual linear feet of any cable, fiber optic, or other pathway that makes physical use of the 17 municipal right-of-way. In no event shall the fee or other 18 19 consideration imposed pursuant to this subsection be less than 20 \$500 per linear mile of any cable, fiber optic, or other 21 pathway that makes physical use of the municipal right-of-way. 22 Any fee or other consideration imposed by this subsection in excess of \$500 shall be applied in a nondiscriminatory manner 23 and shall not exceed the sum of: 24

(a) Costs directly related to the inconvenience or impairment solely caused by the disturbance of the municipal right-of-way; and

28 (b) The reasonable cost of the regulatory activity of 29 the municipality.

30 (c) The proportionate share of cost of land for such31 street, alley, or other public way attributable to utilization

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of the right-of-way by a telecommunication service provider. 1 2 Furthermore, no telecommunication service provider shall be 3 required to pay more than one such fee or other consideration annually for the construction, maintenance, operation, repair, 4 5 rebuilding, or replacement of a parallel telecommunications 6 route owned by it, or by a subsidiary under its direct 7 control, which makes use of the right-of-way of any 8 municipality enacting an ordinance pursuant to this subsection. The fee or other consideration imposed pursuant 9 to this subsection shall not apply in any manner to any 10 11 telecommunication service provider who provides 12 telecommunication services as defined in s. 203.012(3) for any 13 services provided by such service provider. Any agreement 14 entered into pursuant to the authority of this subsection prior to June 3, 1988, and the fees or fee schedule in effect 15 on that date shall remain in full force and effect until such 16 agreement expires. Any ordinance enacted pursuant to this 17 subsection prior to June 3, 1988, and the fees or fee schedule 18 19 in effect on that date shall remain in full force and effect 20 unless the ordinance is repealed by the municipality. 21 Notwithstanding the language contained herein a municipality 22 may reenact any ordinance which has an automatic expiration date provided the ordinance does not increase the fees in 23 effect in said ordinance in violation of this section. 24 25 (5) Except as expressly allowed or authorized by 26 general law, and except for the rights-of-way permit fees 27 subject to subsection (3), a municipality may not levy on a 28 telecommunications company a tax, fee, or other charge for 29 operating as a telecommunications company within the jurisdiction of the municipality or that is in any way related 30 to using roads or rights-of-way. A municipality may not allow 31 4

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a telecommunications company to pay a fee or provide 1 compensation in excess of the limits prescribed in this 2 section. A municipality may not require or solicit in-kind 3 compensation in lieu of any fees imposed pursuant to this 4 5 section. Nothing in this subsection shall impair any б ordinance or agreement in effect on the effective date of this 7 act that provides for or allows in kind compensation by a 8 telecommunications company. (6) A local governmental entity may not use its 9 authority over the placement of facilities in its roads and 10 rights-of-way as a basis for asserting or exercising 11 12 regulatory control over a telecommunications company regarding 13 matters within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Florida 14 Public Service Commission or the Federal Communications 15 Commission, including, but not limited to, the operations, systems, qualifications, services, service quality, service 16 territory, and prices of a telecommunications company. 17 (7) A telecommunications company, that has obtained 18 19 permission to occupy the roads and rights-of-way of an 20 incorporated city or town or that is otherwise lawfully occupying the roads or rights-of-way of a municipality on the 21 effective date of this act, shall not be required to obtain 22 additional consent to continue such lawful occupation of those 23 roads or rights-of-way, however, nothing in this subsection 24 shall be interpreted to limit the power of a municipality to 25 26 impose a fee or adopt or enforce reasonable rules or 27 regulations as provided in this section. 28 (8) Except as expressly provided in this section, this 29 section does not modify the authority of local governmental entities to levy the tax authorized in s. 166.231 or the 30 duties of telecommunications companies under ss. 31

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337.402-337.404. This section does not apply to building permits, pole attachments, or private roads, private easements, and private rights-of-way. Except as expressly provided in this section, this section does not limit or expand whatever powers counties may have relating to roads and б rights-of-way. (9) As used in this section, "telecommunications company" has the same meaning as defined in s. 364.02. Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law. ADDITIONAL SPONSORS Bullard, Stabins, Rayson, Greene, Mackenzie, Mackey, Trovillion, Wise, Bainter, Heyman, Jacobs, Wallace, Healey, Burroughs, Ziebarth, Sublette, Murman, Kelly, Roberts-Burke and Merchant

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