

By the Committee on Utilities & Communications and  
Representatives Clemons and Merchant

1                           A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to telecommunications network  
3           access services; amending s. 364.163, F.S.;  
4           requiring specified reductions in intrastate  
5           switched access rates and long distance rates  
6           by certain companies under certain  
7           circumstances; providing an exception;  
8           authorizing certain local exchange  
9           telecommunications companies to adjust basic  
10          local telecommunications service rates under  
11          certain circumstances; providing an effective  
12          date.

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14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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16           Section 1. Subsections (6) and (7) of section 364.163,  
17 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

18           364.163 Network access services.--For purposes of this  
19 section, "network access service" is defined as any service  
20 provided by a local exchange telecommunications company to a  
21 telecommunications company certificated under this chapter or  
22 licensed by the Federal Communications Commission to access  
23 the local exchange telecommunications network, excluding the  
24 local interconnection arrangements in s. 364.16 and the resale  
25 arrangements in s. 364.161. Each local exchange  
26 telecommunications company subject to s. 364.051 shall  
27 maintain tariffs with the commission containing the terms,  
28 conditions, and rates for each of its network access services.

29           (6)(a) Any local exchange telecommunications company  
30 whose current intrastate switched access rates are higher than  
31 its interstate switched access rates in effect on December 31,

1 1994, shall reduce its intrastate switched access rates by 5  
2 percent annually beginning October 1, 1996. Any such company  
3 shall be relieved of this requirement if it reduces such rates  
4 by a greater percentage by the relevant date or earlier,  
5 taking into account any reduction made pursuant to Florida  
6 Public Service Commission Order No. PSC 94-0172-FOF-TL. Upon  
7 reaching parity between intrastate and 1994 interstate  
8 switched access rates, no further reductions shall be  
9 required. ~~Any telecommunications company whose intrastate~~  
10 ~~switched access rate is reduced by this subsection shall~~  
11 ~~decrease its customer long distance rates by the amount~~  
12 ~~necessary to return the benefits of such reduction to its~~  
13 ~~customers.~~

14 (b) Any local exchange telecommunications company with  
15 more than 100,000 and less than 1.85 million basic local  
16 telecommunications service access lines in service on January  
17 1, 1997, shall reduce its intrastate switched access rates by  
18 an additional 5 percent on February 1, 1998, and February 1,  
19 1999.

20 (c) Any local exchange telecommunications company with  
21 more than 1.85 million and less than 3 million basic local  
22 telecommunications service access lines in service on January  
23 1, 1997, shall reduce its intrastate switched access rates by  
24 an additional 5 percent on February 1, 1998, June 1, 1998, and  
25 February 1, 1999.

26 (d) Any interexchange telecommunications company whose  
27 intrastate switched access rate is reduced by this subsection  
28 shall decrease its customer long distance rates by the amount  
29 necessary to return the benefits of such reduction to its  
30 customers. The commission shall ensure that the reductions  
31 benefit all customers who make intrastate long distance calls,

1 regardless of the volume or type of such calls unless the  
2 commission, after an opportunity for a hearing, determines  
3 that this is not in the public interest. The commission shall  
4 have continuing regulatory oversight of customer long distance  
5 rate reductions.

6 (e) Any local exchange company that can show it can no  
7 longer afford to provide universal service as a result of the  
8 rate reductions required by this subsection may petition the  
9 Public Service Commission for appropriate relief from the rate  
10 reduction required by this subsection.

11 (f) Access fee reductions pursuant to this section  
12 shall not be deemed substantially changed circumstances for  
13 purposes of s. 364.051(5).

14 (7) Telecommunications company intrastate switched  
15 access and customer long distance rate reductions shall become  
16 effective on the relevant dates set forth in paragraphs (6)(b)  
17 and (c) and on October 1 of each relevant year. Rate  
18 decreases proposed in tariff revisions filed by the  
19 telecommunications companies with the commission shall be  
20 presumed valid and become effective on the dates set forth in  
21 paragraphs (6)(b) and (c) and on October 1 of each relevant  
22 year.

23 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
24 law.

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