

By Senators Posey, Webster, Wasserman Schultz and Horne

15-584A-01

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to telecommunications
3 companies; amending s. 364.163, F.S., relating
4 to network access services; defining the term
5 "network access service"; requiring local
6 exchange telecommunications companies to
7 maintain certain information with the Florida
8 Public Service Commission; providing for the
9 network access service rates of certain
10 companies to be capped; requiring certain local
11 exchange telecommunications companies to reduce
12 their intrastate switched access rates to a
13 specified level; allowing interexchange
14 carriers to petition the commission to reduce
15 certain intrastate switched access rates;
16 requiring the commission to render a decision
17 within a specified time period; requiring
18 certain interexchange telecommunications
19 companies to decrease their intrastate long
20 distance rates for the benefit of their
21 customers; allowing certain local exchange
22 telecommunications companies to petition the
23 commission to increase their network access
24 rates; requiring the commission to render its
25 decision within a specified time period;
26 providing an effective date.

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

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30 Section 1. Section 364.163, Florida Statutes, is
31 amended to read:

1 (Substantial rewording of section. See
2 s. 364.163, F.S., for present text.)
3 364.163 Network access services.--As used in this
4 section, the term "network access service" means any service
5 provided by a local exchange telecommunications company to a
6 telecommunications company certificated under this chapter or
7 licensed by the Federal Communications Commission to access
8 the local exchange telecommunications network, excluding the
9 local interconnection arrangements in s. 364.16 and the resale
10 arrangements in s. 364.161. Each local exchange
11 telecommunications company subject to s. 364.051 shall
12 maintain tariffs with the commission containing the terms,
13 conditions, and rates for each of its network access services.
14 (1) The network access service rates of a company that
15 elects to become subject to this section shall, upon the date
16 of filing its election with the commission, be capped at the
17 rates in effect on that date, and the rates shall remain
18 capped at that level for 5 years.
19 (2) On July 1, 2001, any local exchange
20 telecommunications company that had more than 100,000 but
21 fewer than 3 million basic local telecommunications service
22 access lines in service on July 1, 1995, shall reduce its
23 intrastate switched access rates to the level of the
24 intrastate switched access rates of the largest local exchange
25 telecommunications company operating within this state.
26 (3) Effective July 31, 2001, an interexchange carrier
27 may petition the commission to reduce the intrastate switched
28 access rates of any local exchange telecommunications company.
29 The commission shall render its decision no later than 180
30 days after the date of the petition.
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1 (4) Any interexchange telecommunications company that
2 has had its intrastate switched access rate reduced under
3 subsection (2) or subsection (3) shall decrease its intrastate
4 long distance rates in order to return all of the benefits of
5 the reduction to its customers in the service area. The
6 interexchange telecommunications carrier may decide which
7 intrastate rates are to be decreased, as long as residential
8 and business customers benefit from the rate decreases.

9 (5) Effective July 31, 2001, any local exchange
10 telecommunications company except one that has had its rates
11 capped under subsection (1) may petition the commission to
12 increase its network access rates. The commission shall render
13 its decision no later than 180 days after the date of the
14 petition.

15 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

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18 SENATE SUMMARY

19 Defines the term "network access service" as it relates
20 to telecommunications companies. Requires local exchange
21 telecommunications companies to maintain certain
22 information with the Florida Public Service Commission.
23 Provides for the network access service rates of certain
24 companies to be capped and to remain capped for 5 years.
25 Requires certain local exchange telecommunications
26 companies to reduce their intrastate switched access
27 rates to the level of such rates of the largest local
28 exchange telecommunications company operating in this
29 state. Allows interexchange carriers to petition the
30 commission to reduce certain intrastate switched access
31 rates. Requires the commission to render a decision
 within 180 days after the date of the petition for a rate
 reduction. Requires certain interexchange
 telecommunications companies to decrease their intrastate
 long distance rates for the benefit of their customers.
 Allows certain local exchange telecommunications
 companies to petition the commission to increase their
 network access rates. Requires the commission to render
 its decision within 180 days after the date of the
 petition for a rate increase.