

By Senator Aronberg

27-1579-03

See HB 351

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to price regulation of local exchange telecommunications companies; amending s. 364.051, F.S.; changing the timeframe for notice of rate changes; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section 364.051, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

364.051 Price regulation.--

(5) NONBASIC SERVICES.--Price regulation of nonbasic services shall consist of the following:

(a) Each company subject to this section shall maintain tariffs with the commission containing the terms, conditions, and rates for each of its nonbasic services, and may set or change, on 7 ~~15~~ days' notice, the rate for each of its nonbasic services, except that a price increase for any nonbasic service category shall not exceed 6 percent within a 12-month period until there is another provider providing local telecommunications service in an exchange area at which time the price for any nonbasic service category may be increased in an amount not to exceed 20 percent within a 12-month period, and the rate shall be presumptively valid. However, for purposes of this subsection, the prices of:

1. A voice-grade, flat-rate, multi-line business local exchange service, including multiple individual lines, centrex lines, private branch exchange trunks, and any associated hunting services, that provides dial tone and local usage

1 necessary to place a call within a local exchange calling
2 area; and

3 2. Telecommunications services provided under contract
4 service arrangements to the SUNCOM Network, as defined in
5 chapter 282,

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7 shall be capped at the rates in effect on July 1, 1995, and
8 such rates shall not be increased prior to January 1, 2000;
9 provided, however, that a petition to increase such rates may
10 be filed pursuant to subsection (4) utilizing the standards
11 set forth therein. There shall be a flat-rate pricing option
12 for multi-line business local exchange service, and mandatory
13 measured service for multi-line business local exchange
14 service shall not be imposed. Nothing contained in this
15 section shall prevent the local exchange telecommunications
16 company from meeting offerings by any competitive provider of
17 the same, or functionally equivalent, nonbasic services in a
18 specific geographic market or to a specific customer by
19 deaveraging the price of any nonbasic service, packaging
20 nonbasic services together or with basic services, using
21 volume discounts and term discounts, and offering individual
22 contracts. However, the local exchange telecommunications
23 company shall not engage in any anticompetitive act or
24 practice, nor unreasonably discriminate among similarly
25 situated customers.

26 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
27 law.

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