

By Senator Argenziano

3-1860-04

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to Lifeline telecommunication
 3 services; amending s. 364.10, F.S.; prohibiting
 4 a local exchange telecommunication company
 5 providing Lifeline services from increasing its
 6 basic local residential service rate unless the
 7 local residential rate increase is matched
 8 dollar-for-dollar with an increase in the total
 9 Lifeline financial assistance available to the
 10 customer; directing that a Lifeline customer is
 11 not subject to any authorized rate increase
 12 until the matching financial assistance is
 13 available to the customer; amending s. 364.105,
 14 F.S.; requiring that the percentage discount
 15 for the residential basic local
 16 telecommunications rate offered to a Lifeline
 17 customer be applied against the rate effective
 18 to the Lifeline customer on a specified date;
 19 providing an effective date.

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

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 23 Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section
 24 364.10, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

25 364.10 Undue advantage to person or locality
 26 prohibited; Lifeline service.--

27 (3)

28 (c) Any local exchange telecommunications company
 29 customer receiving Lifeline benefits shall not be subject to
 30 any residential basic local telecommunications service rate
 31 increases authorized by s. 364.164 ~~until the local exchange~~

1 ~~telecommunications company reaches parity as defined in s.~~
2 ~~364.164(5) or until the customer no longer qualifies for the~~
3 Lifeline benefits established by this section or s. 364.105,
4 or unless the rate increase is matched dollar-for-dollar with
5 an increase in the total Lifeline financial assistance
6 available to the customer. A customer receiving Lifeline
7 benefits is not subject to any rate increase otherwise
8 authorized by s. 364.164 until the matching dollar-for-dollar
9 financial assistance is available to the customer otherwise
10 ~~determined by the commission upon petition by a local exchange~~
11 ~~telecommunications company.~~

12 Section 2. Section 364.105, Florida Statutes, is
13 amended to read:

14 364.105 Discounted rate for basic service for former
15 Lifeline subscribers.--Each local exchange telecommunications
16 company shall offer discounted residential basic local
17 telecommunications service at 70 percent of the residential
18 local telecommunications service rate in effect for the
19 telecommunications company providing service to that customer
20 on June 1, 2003,for any Lifeline subscriber who no longer
21 qualifies for Lifeline. A Lifeline subscriber who requests the
22 ~~such~~ service shall receive the discounted price for a period
23 of 1 year after the date the subscriber ceases to be qualified
24 for Lifeline. In no event shall this preclude the offering of
25 any other discounted services which comply with ss. 364.08,
26 364.09, and 364.10.

27 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
28 law.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Provides that a local exchange telecommunication company providing Lifeline services may not increase its basic local residential service rate unless the local residential rate increase is matched dollar-for-dollar with an increase in the total Lifeline financial assistance available to the customer. Directs that a Lifeline customer is not subject to any authorized rate increase until the matching financial assistance is available to the customer. Provides that the percentage discount for the residential basic local telecommunications rate offered to a Lifeline customer be applied against the rate effective to the Lifeline customer on a specified date.