

Bill No. CS for SB 998

Barcode 373972

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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The Committee on Community Affairs (Siplin, Hill, and Dawson) recommended the following amendment:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

On page 43, between lines 17 and 18,

insert:

Section 13. Basic cable service credits.--

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Basic cable service" means the same as in 47

U.S.C. s. 522(3).

(b) "Cable service provider" means the same as in s.

610.103(3), Florida Statutes.

(c) "Video service provider" means the same as in s.

610.103(12), Florida Statutes.

(2)(a) Effective September 1, 2008, every cable service provider and every video service provider must provide to a customer or a potential customer who meets the eligibility criteria for participation in one or more benefit programs described in subsection (3) or who satisfies an income eligibility test of 135 percent or less of the federal

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Barcode 373972

1 poverty income guidelines, a credit of up to \$13.50 each month
 2 for receipt of basic cable service. The Office of Public
 3 Counsel shall certify and maintain claims submitted by a
 4 customer for eligibility under the income test authorized by
 5 this subsection.

6 (b) Each cable service provider and video service
 7 provider subject to this subsection shall provide to each
 8 state and federal agency providing benefits to persons who are
 9 eligible for basic cable service applications, brochures,
 10 pamphlets, or other materials that inform the persons of their
 11 eligibility for basic cable service and each state agency
 12 providing the benefits shall furnish the materials to affected
 13 persons at the time they apply for benefits.

14 (c) Each cable service provider and video service
 15 provider customer receiving basic cable service benefits are
 16 not subject to any residential basic cable service rate
 17 increase otherwise authorized by law.

18 (d) By December 31, 2008, each state agency that
 19 provides benefits to persons eligible for basic cable service
 20 shall undertake, in cooperation with the Department of
 21 Children and Family Services, the Department of Education, the
 22 Office of Public Counsel, and each cable service provider and
 23 video service provider basic cable services, the development
 24 of procedures to promote Lifeline participation.

25 (3) A person is eligible for basic cable services if
 26 he or she qualifies for and receives benefits from:

27 (a) Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF);

28 (b) Supplemental Security Income (SSI);

29 (c) Food stamps;

30 (d) Medicaid;

31 (e) Federal public housing or subsidized housing

Bill No. CS for SB 998

Barcode 373972

1 assistance;

2 (f) The low-income home energy assistance program

3 (LIHEAP);

4 (g) The national school lunch program's free lunch

5 program; or

6 (h) Bureau of Indian Affairs programs.

7

8 (Redesignate subsequent sections.)

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11 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

12 And the title is amended as follows:

13 On page 5, line 23, after the semicolon,

14

15 insert:

16 creating basic cable service credits; providing

17 definitions; requiring every cable service

18 provider and every video service provider to

19 provide to each customer who meets the

20 eligibility criteria a specified credit for

21 each month for receipt of basic cable service;

22 requiring cable service providers and video

23 service providers to provide each state and

24 federal agency providing benefits to persons

25 eligible for basic cable service applications,

26 brochures, pamphlets, or other materials that

27 inform the persons of their eligibility for

28 basic cable service; prohibiting rate

29 increases;

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