

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to Lifeline telecommunications service;
 3 amending s. 364.10, F.S.; authorizing any commercial
 4 mobile radio service provider designated as an eligible
 5 telecommunications carrier to offer Lifeline services;
 6 authorizing the Department of Children and Family
 7 Services, the Department of Education, the Public Service
 8 Commission, and the Office of Public Counsel to exchange
 9 certain information with eligible telecommunications
 10 carriers so the carriers can identify and enroll an
 11 eligible person in the Lifeline and Link-Up programs;
 12 maintaining confidentiality of the information; providing
 13 an effective date.

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

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 17 Section 1. Paragraphs (a) and (h) of subsection (3) of
 18 section 364.10, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

19 364.10 Undue advantage to person or locality prohibited;
 20 Lifeline service.--

21 (3) (a) Each local exchange telecommunications company that
 22 has more than 1 million access lines and that is designated as
 23 an eligible telecommunications carrier shall, and any commercial
 24 mobile radio service provider designated as an eligible
 25 telecommunications carrier may, upon filing a notice of election
 26 to do so with the commission, provide Lifeline service to any
 27 otherwise eligible customer or potential customer who meets an
 28 income eligibility test at 150 percent or less of the federal

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29 | poverty income guidelines for Lifeline customers. Such a test
30 | for eligibility must augment, rather than replace, the
31 | eligibility standards established by federal law and based on
32 | participation in certain low-income assistance programs. Each
33 | intrastate interexchange telecommunications company shall file
34 | or publish a schedule providing at a minimum the intrastate
35 | interexchange telecommunications carrier's current Lifeline
36 | benefits and exemptions to Lifeline customers who meet the
37 | income eligibility test set forth in this subsection. The Office
38 | of Public Counsel shall certify and maintain claims submitted by
39 | a customer for eligibility under the income test authorized by
40 | this subsection.

41 | (h)1. By December 31, 2010 ~~2007~~, each state agency that
42 | provides benefits to persons eligible for Lifeline service shall
43 | undertake, in cooperation with the Department of Children and
44 | Family Services, the Department of Education, the commission,
45 | the Office of Public Counsel, and telecommunications companies
46 | designated eligible telecommunications carriers providing
47 | Lifeline services, the development of procedures to promote
48 | Lifeline participation. The departments, the commission, and the
49 | Office of the Public Counsel may exchange sufficient information
50 | with the appropriate eligible telecommunications carriers, such
51 | as a person's name, date of birth, service address, and
52 | telephone number, so that the carriers can identify and enroll
53 | an eligible person in the Lifeline and Link-Up programs. The
54 | information remains confidential pursuant to s. 364.107 and may
55 | only be used for purposes of determining eligibility and
56 | enrollment in the Lifeline and Link-Up programs.

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57 2. If any state agency determines that a person is
58 eligible for Lifeline services, the agency shall immediately
59 forward the information to the commission to ensure that the
60 person is automatically enrolled in the program with the
61 appropriate eligible telecommunications carrier. The state
62 agency shall include an option for an eligible customer to
63 choose not to subscribe to the Lifeline service. The Public
64 Service Commission and the Department of Children and Family
65 Services shall, no later than December 31, 2007, adopt rules
66 creating procedures to automatically enroll eligible customers
67 in Lifeline service.

68 3. By December 31, 2010, the commission, the Department of
69 Children and Family Services, ~~and~~ the Office of Public Counsel,
70 and each eligible telecommunications carrier offering Lifeline
71 and Link-Up services, shall enter into a memorandum of
72 understanding establishing their ~~the~~ respective duties ~~of the~~
73 ~~commission, the department, and the public counsel~~ with respect
74 to the automatic enrollment procedures ~~no later than December~~
75 ~~31, 2007.~~

76 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.