

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 and certain commercial mobile radio service
11 providers so the carriers and providers can identify and
12 enroll an eligible person in the Lifeline and Link-Up
13 programs; maintaining confidentiality of the information;
14 requiring that the commission, the Department of Children
15 and Family Services, the Office of Public Counsel, and
16 each eligible telecommunications carrier convene a
17 Lifeline Workgroup by a specified date; providing an
18 effective date.

19
20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

21
22 Section 1. Paragraphs (a) and (h) of subsection (3) of
23 section 364.10, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

24 364.10 Undue advantage to person or locality prohibited;
25 Lifeline service.—

26 (3) (a) Each local exchange telecommunications company that
27 has more than 1 million access lines and that is designated as
28 an eligible telecommunications carrier shall, and any commercial

29 mobile radio service provider designated as an eligible
30 telecommunications carrier pursuant to 47 U.S.C. s. 214(e) may,
31 upon filing a notice of election to do so with the commission,
32 provide Lifeline service to any otherwise eligible customer or
33 potential customer who meets an income eligibility test at 150
34 percent or less of the federal poverty income guidelines for
35 Lifeline customers. Such a test for eligibility must augment,
36 rather than replace, the eligibility standards established by
37 federal law and based on participation in certain low-income
38 assistance programs. Each intrastate interexchange
39 telecommunications company shall file or publish a schedule
40 providing at a minimum the intrastate interexchange
41 telecommunications carrier's current Lifeline benefits and
42 exemptions to Lifeline customers who meet the income eligibility
43 test set forth in this subsection. The Office of Public Counsel
44 shall certify and maintain claims submitted by a customer for
45 eligibility under the income test authorized by this subsection.

46 (h)1. By December 31, 2010 ~~2007~~, each state agency that
47 provides benefits to persons eligible for Lifeline service shall
48 undertake, in cooperation with the Department of Children and
49 Family Services, the Department of Education, the commission,
50 the Office of Public Counsel, and telecommunications companies
51 designated eligible telecommunications carriers providing
52 Lifeline services, the development of procedures to promote
53 Lifeline participation. The departments, the commission, and the
54 Office of Public Counsel may exchange sufficient information
55 with the appropriate eligible telecommunications carriers and
56 any commercial mobile radio service provider electing to provide

57 Lifeline service under paragraph (a), such as a person's name,
58 date of birth, service address, and telephone number, so that
59 the carriers can identify and enroll an eligible person in the
60 Lifeline and Link-Up programs. The information remains
61 confidential pursuant to s. 364.107 and may only be used for
62 purposes of determining eligibility and enrollment in the
63 Lifeline and Link-Up programs.

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

75 3. By December 31, 2010, the commission, the Department of
76 Children and Family Services, ~~and~~ the Office of Public Counsel,
77 and each eligible telecommunications carrier offering Lifeline
78 and Link-Up services shall convene a Lifeline Workgroup to
79 discuss how the eligible subscriber information in subparagraph
80 1. will be shared, the obligations of each party with respect to
81 the use of that information, and the procedures to be
82 implemented to verify eligibility in these programs ~~shall enter~~
83 ~~into a memorandum of understanding establishing the respective~~
84 ~~duties of the commission, the department, and the public counsel~~

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85 | ~~with respect to the automatic enrollment procedures no later~~
86 | ~~than December 31, 2007.~~

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