

CS/SB 814 — Lifeline Telecommunications Service

by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee, and Senators Aronberg, Smith, Ring, and Wilson

The bill revises provisions in s. 364.10(3), F.S., related to the development of procedures to promote participation and automatic enrollment in Lifeline services. The bill authorizes commercial mobile radio service providers designated as eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) pursuant to 47 U.S.C. s. 214(e) to use the federal poverty guidelines as eligibility criteria to offer Lifeline services after notifying the Public Service Commission (PSC) of this election. The bill authorizes the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Education, the PSC, and the Office of Public Counsel to share certain information with authorized ETCs, such as a person's name, date of birth, service address, and telephone number, so that the carriers can identify and enroll an eligible person in the Lifeline and Link-Up programs. This information would remain confidential pursuant to s. 364.107, F.S., and is only to be used for determining eligibility and enrollment in the Lifeline program.

The bill provides that a Lifeline Workgroup will convene by December 31, 2010, to discuss how eligible subscriber information will be shared, the obligations of each party with respect to that information, and the procedures to be implemented to verify eligibility in these programs. The bill changes the date to December 31, 2010, by which both procedures to promote Lifeline participation and procedures for automatic enrollment in Lifeline must be developed.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2010.

Vote: Senate 34-0; House 113-0