

# SECRETARY'S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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## BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska	)	Application No. C-5625
Public Service Commission, on	)	
its own motion, to determine	)	
the surcharge for the	)	ORDER SETTING SURCHARGE
statewide Telecommunications	)	
Relay System, to be effective	)	
July 1, 2025.	)	Entered: April 15, 2025

BY THE COMMISSION:

On January 22, 2025, the above-captioned proceeding was opened by the Nebraska Public Service Commission ("Commission"), on its own motion, to determine the appropriate surcharge for the statewide Telecommunications Relay System ("TRS") for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2025. The Commission is charged by statute to hold an annual public hearing, prior to April 1 of each year, to determine the amount of surcharge necessary to carry out the provisions of the Telecommunications Relay System Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-301 to 86-315.<sup>1</sup> The surcharge is used to fund the TRS and the Nebraska Specialized Telecommunications Equipment Program ("NSTEP") for the coming year.

The order opening the above-captioned proceeding and setting the matter for hearing was mailed to all interested parties on or around January 23, 2025. Notice of the proceeding appeared in The Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska, on January 24, 2025.

## E V I D E N C E

On March 11, 2025, a public hearing was held in this matter in the Commission Hearing Room in Lincoln, Nebraska, and through videoconference. Commission exhibits numbered 1-5 were offered and accepted. Jonathan Smith appeared on behalf of the Commission staff.

Tami Richardson-Nelson, the Chair of the TRS Advisory Committee, submitted a letter to the Commission dated January 29, 2025. In its letter, the Advisory Committee recommended to the Commission that the surcharge be reduced by one cent effective July 1, 2025, resulting in a revised surcharge of four cents. At

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<sup>1</sup> See Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-313 (2).

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the March 11th public hearing, this recommendation letter was accepted into the record as Exhibit 3.

Brett Bode, TRS/NSTEP Program Manager for the Commission, testified at the hearing on behalf of Commission staff. Mr. Bode presented the TRS usage data and surcharge forecasts, marked as exhibit 4, as well as his pre-filed written testimony, marked as Exhibit 5. Based on his analysis, forecasts, and experience as the Commission's administrator of the TRS program, Mr. Bode also recommended that the surcharge be reduced from five cents to four cents for the next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024.<sup>2</sup> Mr. Bode further testified that his recommendation was identical to the recommendation of the TRS Advisory Committee.<sup>3</sup>

Following Mr. Bode's testimony, no further witnesses were called, and the hearing was adjourned.

## O P I N I O N   A N D   F I N D I N G S

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-313 requires the Commission to set the TRS surcharge at a level necessary to fund the statewide TRS and the specialized telecommunications equipment program, plus a reasonable reserve. Upon our review of the evidence, the Commission supports the recommendation of Commission Staff and the TRS Advisory Board, and finds that the current five-cent surcharge should be reduced by one cent effective July 1, 2025, resulting in a revised surcharge of four cents. The Commission finds this amount is sufficient to support the projected balance requirements of the TRS fund.

## O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that, pursuant to the Telecommunications Relay System Act, the TRS surcharge should be set at four cents per telephone number or functional equivalent, beginning July 1, 2025.

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<sup>2</sup> *Transcript* at 15:06 – 15:13.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 15:17 – 15:25.

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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all affected telecommunications companies are hereby required, beginning July 1, 2025, to collect a four-cent surcharge per month on each telephone number or functional equivalent in Nebraska, in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat § 86-313.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 15th day of April, 2025.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

  
  




Chair

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director