

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission on) Application No. C-1366
its own motion to determine a sur-)
charge for the Statewide Telecom-) GRANTED
munications Relays Service (TRS) to)
be effective January 1, 1997.) Entered: September 5, 1996

APPEARANCES:

For the Communications Department:
Deonne Bruning, Staff Counsel
300 The Atrium, 1200 N St.
P.O. Box 94927
Lincoln, NE 68508

For Hamilton Communications:
Gary Warren
1001 12th St.
Aurora, NE 68818

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

This docket was opened July 7, 1995 by the Commission to consider what, if any, change should be made to the surcharge used to fund the TRS. LBS 240 (1990) and 305 (1993) set forth the statutory requirements establishing the Relay. The legislation requires an annual review and hearing before October 1 of each year to determine the surcharge to fund the Relay for the forthcoming year.

Notice of the application appeared in the Omaha Daily Record, July 5, 1996 and notice of the hearing was published in the same on August 8, 1996. The Executive Director of the Commission sent notice to all interested parties on August 5, 1996. The hearing was held in the Commission Hearing Room, Lincoln, Nebraska, August 27, 1996.

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

Steve Stovall, staff auditor of the Commission's Communications Department, testified. He and the Department staff studied usage data provided by the Relay vendor, Hamilton Communications. This data show actual usage from January, 1995 through and including June, 1996. The data shows usage, number of calls, monthly cost and revenue generated by the present seven cent surcharge. Based on past usage, Mr. Stovall testified that staff has projected the Relay's use through the end of 1997 and recommends that the current surcharge of seven cents per access line be maintained.

According to Mr. Stovall, the Relay Advisory Committee to the Commission passed a motion recommending the surcharge remain at seven cents. Mary Moore, Chair of the Relay Advisory Committee, submitted a letter to the Commission of the

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Committee's opinion that the surcharge remain at seven cents for 1997.

Mr. Stovall testified that the staff's projections on the amount of revenue needed to fund the relay have been historically accurate. He believes the projection of usage and costs through the introduction of the specialized equipment distribution program, pursuant to LB 146 (1995), are accurately reflected. Lastly, he testified a seven cent surcharge will continue to reduce the reserve that had accumulated in the fund.

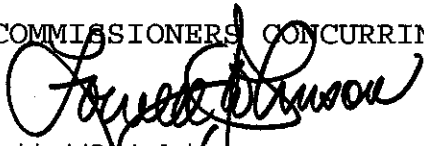
O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that, pursuant to LBs 240 and 305 (Laws 1990 and 1993, respectively) a seven cent per access line surcharge shall fund the Telecommunications Relay System in 1997.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all affected telecommunications companies are hereby required, beginning January 1, 1997, to collect a seven cent surcharge per month on each telephone access line in Nebraska.¹ The companies shall add the surcharge to each customer's bill. The companies shall not be liable for any surcharge not paid by a customer and shall not be obligated to take legal action to collect the surcharge. The proceeds from the surcharge shall be remitted to the Commission monthly, no later than thirty days after the end of the month in which they were collected.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska this 5th day of September, 1996.

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

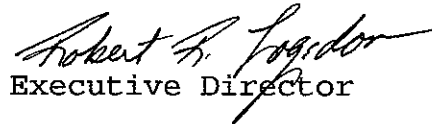

 //s//Red Johnson
 //s//Frank E. Landis
 //s//James F. Munnelly
 //s//Daniel G. Urwiller

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Chairman



ATTEST:


 Executive Director

¹The surcharge shall be collected on the first one hundred telephone access lines per customer.