

By Senator Aronberg

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

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

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

20 364.10 Undue advantage to person or locality prohibited;
21 Lifeline service.—

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

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

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

58 2. If any state agency determines that a person is eligible

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