HOUSE BILL 1750

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State of Washington   **56th Legislature**   **1999 Regular Session**

By Representatives Cooper, Crouse, Poulsen, G. Chandler, Doumit, DeBolt, Eickmeyer and Mulliken

Read first time 02/04/1999.   Referred to Committee on Technology, Telecommunications & Energy.

1   AN ACT Relating to the provision of telecommunications by public
2 entities; adding a new section to chapter 54.16 RCW; and creating a new
3 section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.**   The purpose of this act is to provide the
6 express   authority   for   public   utility   districts   to   provide
7 telecommunications facilities and services for the benefit of our
8 citizens by: (1) Requiring a public utility district that provides
9 telecommunications   facilities   for   public   use   to   provide   these
10 facilities without charge to public schools and institutions of higher
11 education located in the area that it serves and, if authorized by
12 voters   to   provide   telecommunication   services,   to   provide
13 telecommunication services to these public schools and institutions
14 without charge; (2) increasing economic development opportunities,
15 particularly of rural areas, by providing a cost-effective means of
16 extending   telecommunications   facilities   and,   if   authorized,
17 telecommunication services throughout the entire state; and (3)
18 stimulating   the   marketplace   by   increasing   competition   among   the

1 providers of telecommunications facilities and, if authorized,
2 telecommunication services.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 54.16 RCW
4 to read as follows:
5 (1) A public utility district may construct, purchase, acquire,
6 provide, add to, alter, improve, repair, and maintain
7 telecommunications facilities within its boundaries, with capacity
8 sufficient for its own use as well as use by others, and with full
9 authority to regulate and control the use and price thereof. The
10 public utility district has full discretion to classify the uses of
11 these facilities on any reasonable ground and the rates charged shall
12 be uniform for the same class of customers.
13 (2) A public utility district may provide telecommunication
14 services within its boundaries if voters of the public utility district
15 approve a ballot proposition authorizing the public utility district to
16 provide telecommunication services, with full authority to regulate and
17 control the price thereof.
18 (3) A public utility district providing telecommunications
19 facilities or services may use its tax receipts to reduce the costs of
20 these telecommunications facilities or services. Telecommunications
21 facilities, works, lines, wires, and cables may be financed in whole or
22 in part by the public utility creating local utility districts and
23 imposing special assessments on benefited property within the local
24 utility districts, other than the property of school districts and
25 institutions of higher education, as defined in RCW 28B.10.016,
26 following the procedures provided under this chapter and chapter 35.51
27 RCW.
28 (4) Any public utility district providing telecommunications
29 facilities or services for public use must provide these facilities and
30 services to public schools and institutions of higher education, as
31 defined in RCW 28B.10.016, located within the area served by the public
32 utility district's telecommunications facilities or services without
33 charge and may provide telecommunications equipment and accessories to
34 these public schools and institutions of higher education for no cost
35 or at reduced cost. Any costs of providing these facilities, services,
36 equipment, and accessories to public schools and institutions of higher
37 education shall be part of the costs of providing telecommunications

1 facilities and services to the public that is borne by rates and
2 charges imposed on other persons using these facilities and services.

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