
SENATE BILL 5999

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators B. Sheldon, Fairley, Carlson, Snyder, Rossi, Costa, Eide, Kline and Winsley

Read first time 02/13/2001. Referred to Committee on Economic Development & Telecommunications.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Washington telephone assistance program;
2 amending RCW 80.36.005, 80.36.410, and 80.36.470; and providing an
3 expiration date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 80.36.005 and 1993 c 249 s 1 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 ~~((As used in this chapter))~~ The definitions in this section apply
8 throughout RCW 80.36.410 through 80.36.475, unless the context
9 ~~((indicates))~~ clearly requires otherwise((~~7~~)).

10 (1) "Community agency" means local community agencies that
11 administer community service voice mail programs.

12 (2) "Community service voice mail" means a computerized voice mail
13 system that provides low-income recipients with: (a) An individually
14 assigned telephone number; (b) the ability to record a personal
15 greeting; and (c) a private security code to retrieve messages.

16 (3) "Department" means the department of social and health
17 services.

18 (4) "Service year" means the period between July 1st and June 30th.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 80.36.410 and 1987 c 229 s 3 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 The legislature finds that universal telephone service is an
4 important policy goal of the state. The legislature further finds
5 that: (1) Recent changes in the telecommunications industry, such as
6 federal access charges, raise concerns about the ability of low-income
7 persons to continue to afford access to local exchange telephone
8 service; and (2) many low-income persons making the transition to
9 independence from receiving supportive services through community
10 agencies do not qualify for economic assistance from the department.
11 Therefore, the legislature finds that it is in the public interest to
12 take steps to mitigate the effects of these changes on low-income
13 persons.

14 **Sec. 3.** RCW 80.36.470 and 1990 c 170 s 6 are each amended to read
15 as follows:

16 (1) Adult recipients of department-administered programs for the
17 financially needy which provide continuing financial or medical
18 assistance, food stamps, or supportive services to persons in their own
19 homes are eligible for participation in the telephone assistance
20 program. The department shall notify the participants of their
21 eligibility.

22 (2) Participants in community service voice mail programs are
23 eligible for participation in the telephone assistance program after
24 completing use of community service voice mail services. Eligibility
25 shall be for a period including the remainder of the current service
26 year and the following service year. Community agencies shall notify
27 the department of participants eligible under this subsection.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 2 and 3 of this act expire June 30,
29 2003.

--- END ---