

SENATE FILE NO. SF0019

Telecommunications act-amendments.

Sponsored by: Joint Corporations, Elections & Political
Subdivisions Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to telecommunications; extending the Wyoming
2 Telecommunications Act's sunset date; conforming provisions
3 related to the Wyoming universal service fund alternative
4 distribution option and the benchmark price for essential
5 local exchange services; and providing for an effective date.

6

7 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

8

9 **Section 1.** W.S. 37-15-101(b) and 37-15-501(g) and (h)
10 are amended to read:

11

12 **37-15-101. Short title; sunset.**

13

14 (b) This chapter is repealed effective July 1, ~~2019~~
15 2023.

1

2 **37-15-501. Universal service fund created;**
3 **contributions; administration.**

4

5 (g) A telecommunications company that undertakes the
6 requirements set forth in this subsection may make a one-time,
7 irrevocable before July 1, ~~2019~~2023, election in writing to
8 the commission to receive Wyoming universal service funds
9 pursuant to this subsection rather than pursuant to
10 subsection (d) of this section. In order to receive funds
11 pursuant to this subsection, the company shall provide
12 essential local exchange service, or its functional
13 equivalent, upon reasonable request throughout the local
14 exchange area of a rural incumbent local exchange carrier, as
15 defined by the federal communications commission on January
16 1, 2015, at a price not exceeding the price benchmark
17 established in subsection (h) of this section. A
18 telecommunications company which elects to receive Wyoming
19 universal service funds pursuant to this subsection shall
20 receive funds to the extent that its loop costs, as reflected
21 in the company's most recent annual filing of unseparated
22 loop costs filed with the Universal Service Administration
23 Company, exceed the company's most recent annual federal

1 universal service funds receipts and annual local revenues.
2 In calculating annual local revenues the commission shall
3 utilize the imputed price benchmark established in subsection
4 (h) of this section. If an otherwise qualified company elects
5 to receive Wyoming universal service funds pursuant to this
6 subsection, but does not file an annual unseparated loop cost
7 report with the Universal Service Administration Company, it
8 shall file the equivalent information with the commission.

9

10 (h) The price benchmark shall be thirty dollars
11 (\$30.00) until July 1, ~~2019~~2023 unless otherwise adjusted by
12 the commission pursuant to this subsection. On and after
13 July 1, 2019, the commission shall review the price benchmark
14 one (1) time every four (4) years and, after review, shall
15 adjust the benchmark as necessary to assure that it
16 approximates one hundred thirty percent (130%) of the
17 weighted statewide average essential local exchange service
18 price. The commission may change the price benchmark at any
19 time if, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, the
20 commission determines that the price benchmark does not
21 approximate one hundred thirty percent (130%) of the weighted
22 statewide average essential local exchange service price and

1 that the price benchmark should be adjusted by ten percent
2 (10%) or more.

3

4 **Section 2.** This act is effective immediately upon
5 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law as
6 provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming Constitution.

7

8

(END)