

SENATE BILL 2076  
By Cooper

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 65, Chapter 29, Part 1, relative to charitable contributions by and to telephone cooperatives.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 65-29-104, is amended by designating the existing language as subsection (a) and by adding the following language as new subsection (b):

(b)

(1) In addition to the authority granted under otherwise applicable law, a cooperative has the power and is authorized, acting through the authorization of the board of directors, to accept and distribute voluntary contributions for bona fide charitable purposes pursuant to programs approved by the board of directors, which programs may include, but shall not be limited to, programs in which bills for telephone service are rounded up to the next dollar, when such contribution is shown as a separate line on the telephone bill.

(2) Contributions accepted by a cooperative pursuant to programs authorized by subdivision (1) shall not be considered revenue to the cooperative. Such contributions shall be used only for charitable purposes.

(3) For purposes of this subsection, a "charitable purpose" is one that provides relief to the poor or underprivileged, advances education or science, addresses community deterioration, provides community assistance, assists in economic development, provides for the erection of public buildings, monuments or works, assists in historic preservation, or promotes social welfare through

nonprofit or governmental organizations designed to accomplish any of the foregoing purposes.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it