

AMENDMENT NO. _____

Signature of Sponsor

FILED
Date _____
Time _____
Clerk _____
Comm. Amdt. _____

AMEND Senate Bill No. 0891

House Bill No. 0695

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and by substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated Section 65-4-203(a) is amended by changing the period at the end of the subdivision to a semicolon and by adding the following language:

provided, however, that in geographic areas served by a local exchange carrier with more than one hundred thousand (100,000) access lines in this state, the Commission shall grant a certificate to any competing telecommunications carrier on a determination that the applicant for such a certificate has the managerial, financial, and technical ability to provide the telecommunications services for which it applied and that the granting of the application would facilitate the development of effective competition for the provision of such telecommunications services.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated Section 65-4-115 is amended by designating the present section as subsection (a) and by adding a new subsection (b) as follows:

(b) In order to assure that effective competition may develop, all telecommunications carriers regulated under this Chapter shall provide non-discriminatory interconnection to their public networks under reasonable rates, terms and conditions to authorized competing telecommunications carriers; all competing telecommunications carriers shall, to the extent that it is technically and financially feasible, be provided desired features, functions and services promptly, and on an unbundled and non-discriminatory basis, from all other telecommunications carriers; and the Commission shall promulgate

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rules to implement this subsection (b) and to provide for unbundling of service elements and functions, resale, presubscription, and number portability.

SECTION 3. A Special Joint Committee on telecommunications is hereby established to study the regulation of telecommunications providers and services in this state including the effects of the entry of new providers of local telephone service and to make recommendations to facilitate the transition from the present, obsolete regulatory system to a system based on effective competition specifically including proposals for a system of price and rate regulation for existing providers of local service, the appropriate mechanisms to assure the availability of universal service, and the necessary safeguards to protect consumers. The Committee shall consist of five members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House and five members of the Senate to be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate. The Public Service Commission and the Consumer Advocate are directed to provide assistance, as needed, to the Committee. The Committee shall report to each House on or before March 1, 1996.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.