



General Assembly

February Session, 2020

Raised Bill No. 183

LCO No. 1467



Referred to Committee on HOUSING

Introduced by:
(HSG)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE COST OF 2-1-1 FOR LIFELINE PROGRAM CELLULAR TELEPHONE CUSTOMERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2020*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Lifeline cellular telephone" means a cellular telephone provided
3 to low income individuals under the lifeline program of the Federal
4 Communications Commission.
- 5 (2) "Provider" means any person who provides prepaid wireless
6 telecommunications service on a lifeline cellular telephone pursuant to
7 a license issued by the Federal Communications Commission.
- 8 (3) "Prepaid wireless telecommunications service" means a wireless
9 telephone service that allows the consumer to access the 2-1-1 system by
10 dialing or otherwise accessing the digits "2-1-1", and that contains
11 predetermined units or dollars and such units or dollars decline with
12 use.
- 13 (4) "Consumer" means a person who possesses a lifeline cellular

14 telephone.

15 (b) No provider shall deduct any units or dollars from a lifeline
16 cellular telephone that is being used by a consumer to access the 2-1-1
17 system. If any consumer is charged for a 2-1-1 call, the provider shall
18 reimburse such consumer with any units or dollars deducted from the
19 lifeline cellular telephone as soon as practicable.

20 (c) The state, through the Department of Social Services, shall enter
21 into a contract with any provider subject to the provisions of this section
22 to provide for the reimbursement to such provider of the cost of any
23 units or dollars provided at no cost to the consumer under subsection
24 (b) of this section not less than quarterly.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2020	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require any provider of lifeline cellular telephone service to not charge any minutes for calls to 2-1-1 and to require the state reimburse the provider for such cost.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]