SUBSTITUTE FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 690

A bill to amend 1991 PA 179, entitled "Michigan telecommunications act," by amending subheading E of article 3 and section 315 (MCL 484.2315), as amended by 2011 PA 58.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

- 1 E. SERVICES FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED DEAF, DEAFBLIND, HARD OF
- 2 HEARING, OR SPEECH-IMPAIRED
- 3 Sec. 315. (1) The commission shall require each provider of
- 4 basic local exchange service to provide a text telephone-
- 5 telecommunications device for the deaf at cost to each individual
- 6 who is certified as deaf, or DEAFBLIND, hard of hearing, or speech-
- 7 impaired by a licensed physician, licensed audiologist, or
- 8 qualified state agency, and to each public safety answering point
- 9 as defined in section 102 of the emergency 9-1-1 service enabling

- 1 act, 1986 PA 32, MCL 484.1102.
- 2 (2) The commission shall require each provider of basic local
- 3 exchange service to provide a telecommunication relay service
- 4 whereby persons INDIVIDUALS using a text telephone-
- 5 telecommunications device for the deaf can communicate with persons
- 6 INDIVIDUALS using a voice telephone through the use of third party
- 7 intervention or automated translation. Each provider of basic local
- 8 exchange service shall determine whether to provide a
- 9 telecommunication relay service on its own, jointly with other
- 10 basic local exchange providers, or by contract with other
- 11 telecommunication providers. The commission shall determine the
- 12 technical standards and essential features of text telephone and
- 13 telecommunication relay service to ensure their compatibility and
- 14 reliability.
- 15 (3) Rates and charges for calls placed through a
- 16 telecommunication relay service shall not exceed the rates and
- 17 charges for calls placed directly from the same originating
- 18 location to the same terminating location. Unless ordered by the
- 19 commission, a provider of a telecommunications relay service shall
- 20 IS not be—required to handle calls from public telephones except
- 21 for calls charged collect or to cash, a credit card, or a third
- party number.
- 23 (4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, a
- 24 provider may offer discounts on toll calls where a text telephone-
- 25 telecommunications device for the deaf is used. The commission
- 26 shall not prohibit such discounts on toll calls placed through a
- 27 telecommunication relay service.

- (5) The commission shall establish a rate for each subscriber 1
- 2 line of a provider to allow the provider to recover costs incurred
- under this section and may waive the costs assessed under this 3
- 4 section to individuals who are deaf, or severely hearing impaired
- DEAFBLIND, HARD OF HEARING, or speech impaired. SPEECH-IMPAIRED. 5
- The rate established by the commission under this subsection may be 6
- assessed as a line item on an end-user's bill. 7