



# HOUSE BILL No. 5421

March 17 1994 Introduced by Rep Sikkema and referred to the Committee on Public Utilities

A bill to amend section 315 of Act No 179 of the Public Acts of 1991, entitled

Michigan telecommunications act, '

being section 484 2315 of the Michigan Compiled Laws

## THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT

1 Section 1 Section 315 of Act No 179 of the Public Acts of  
2 1991, being section 484 2315 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, is  
3 amended to read as follows

4 Sec 315 (1) The commission shall require each provider of  
5 basic local exchange service to provide a text  
6 telephone-telecommunications device for the deaf at costs to each  
7 individual who is certified as deaf or severely hearing- or  
8 speech-impaired by a licensed physician, audiologist, or  
9 qualified state agency, and to each public safety answering point  
10 as defined in section 102 of the emergency telephone service

1 enabling act, Act No 32 of the Public Acts of 1986, being  
2 section 484 1102 of the Michigan Compiled Laws

3 (2) The commission shall require each provider of basic  
4 local exchange service to provide a telecommunication relay serv-  
5 ice whereby persons using a text telephone-telecommunications  
6 device for the deaf can communicate with persons using a voice  
7 telephone through the use of third party intervention or auto-  
8 mated translation ~~Each provider of basic local exchange serv-~~  
9 ~~ice shall determine whether to provide a telecommunication relay~~  
10 ~~service on its own, jointly with other basic local exchange pro-~~  
11 ~~viders, or by contract with other telecommunication providers~~  
12 ~~The~~

13 (3) WITHIN 90 DAYS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE AMENDATORY  
14 ACT THAT ADDED SUBSECTION (4), THE commission shall determine  
15 ~~the~~ BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING

16 (A) THE technical standards and essential features of text  
17 telephone and telecommunication relay service to ensure their  
18 compatibility and reliability

19 (B) THE MOST BENEFICIAL AND COST-EFFECTIVE METHOD TO IMPLE-  
20 MENT A STATEWIDE TEXT TELEPHONE AND TELECOMMUNICATION RELAY  
21 SERVICE

22 (4) WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM THE DATE THE COMMISSION MAKES ITS  
23 DETERMINATIONS PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3), THE COMMISSION SHALL  
24 ISSUE A REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE BIDS TO PROVIDE THE STATEWIDE  
25 TEXT TELEPHONE AND TELECOMMUNICATION RELAY SERVICE

26 (5) ~~(3)~~ The commission shall appoint a 3-person advisory  
27 board consisting of a representative of the deaf community, the

1 commission staff, and providers of basic local exchange service  
2 to assist in administering this section. The advisory board  
3 shall hold meetings, open to the public, at least once each 3  
4 months, shall periodically seek input on the administration of  
5 this section from members of the deaf hearing, or speech  
6 impaired community, and shall report to the commission at least  
7 annually. The advisory board shall investigate and make recom-  
8 mendations on the feasibility of hiring a reasonably prudent  
9 number of people from the deaf or hearing impaired and speech  
10 impaired community to work in the provision of telecommunication  
11 relay service.

12 (6) ~~-(4)-~~ Rates and charges for calls placed through a tele-  
13 communication relay service shall not exceed the rates and  
14 charges for calls placed directly from the same originating loca-  
15 tion to the same terminating location. Unless ordered by the  
16 commission, a provider of a telecommunications relay service  
17 shall not be required to handle calls from public telephones  
18 except for calls charged collect, cash, to a credit card, or  
19 third party number.

20 (7) ~~-(5)-~~ Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, a  
21 provider may offer discounts on toll calls where a text  
22 telephone-telecommunications device for the deaf is used. The  
23 commission shall not prohibit such discounts on toll calls placed  
24 through a telecommunication relay service.

25 (8) ~~-(6)-~~ The commission shall establish a rate for each  
26 subscriber line of a provider to allow the provider to recover  
27 costs incurred under this section and may waive the costs.

1 assessed under this section to individuals who are deaf or  
2 severely hearing impaired or speech impaired