

DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE SERVICE

House Bill 5440

Sponsor: Rep. Judith Scranton

Committee: Public Utilities

Complete to 1-26-98

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 5440 AS INTRODUCED 1-14-98

The bill would amend the Michigan Telecommunications Act to require basic local service providers and pay phone service providers to offer statewide directory assistance to their customers without charge. Currently, only basic local service providers are compelled to offer directory assistance to their customers and that assistance is only required for listed telephone numbers within the caller's area code. Furthermore, the rates and quality for local directory assistance are set by the Public Service Commission.

The bill would require both basic local service providers and pay phone service providers to give their customers directory assistance, free of charge, for any listed telephone number within this state. The commission would still be required to regulate the quality of this service but would no longer set the rate. However, the bill would specify that the fact that the commission was allowed to set the quality of the service could not be construed to allow the commission the authority to allow a basic local or pay phone service provider to charge a customer for directory assistance service. The bill would also specify that a provision in the act requiring a basic local exchange service provider to set rates for supplying directory assistance service to other local providers could not be construed to allow a basic local service provider or a pay phone service provider the authority to charge a customer for directory assistance service.

MCL 484.2102 et al.

Analyst: W. Flory

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