

MAR 5 2003
STATE GOVERNMENT

HOUSE FILE 431
BY BODDICKER

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the provision of a statewide dual party relay
2 telephone service.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 431

1 Section 1. Section 477C.1, Code 2003, is amended to read
2 as follows:

3 477C.1 DUAL PARTY RELAY SERVICE AND EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION
4 PROGRAM -- PURPOSE.

5 The general assembly finds that the provision of a
6 statewide dual party relay service and equipment distribution
7 program will further the public interest and protect the
8 health, safety, and welfare of the people of Iowa through an
9 increase in the usefulness and availability of the telephone
10 system. Many persons who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, or have
11 speech, mobility, cognitive, or other sensory or physical
12 impairments are not able to utilize the telephone system
13 without ~~this-type-of-service~~ these services. Therefore, it is
14 the purpose of this chapter to enable the orderly development,
15 operation, promotion, and funding of a statewide dual party
16 relay service and an equipment distribution program designed
17 to serve the needs of persons with a communication impairment.

18 Sec. 2. Section 477C.2, Code 2003, is amended to read as
19 follows:

20 477C.2 DEFINITIONS.

21 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise
22 requires:

23 1. "Board" means the utilities board within the department
24 of commerce created in section 474.1.

25 ~~2.--"Communication-impairment"--means-the-inability-to-use~~
26 ~~the-telephone-for-communication-without-a-telecommunications~~
27 ~~device-for-the-deaf.~~

28 ~~3.~~ 2. "Council" means the dual party relay council
29 established in section 477C.5.

30 ~~4.~~ 3. "Dual party relay service" or "relay service" means
31 a communication service which provides ~~communication-impaired~~
32 persons with a communication impairment access to the
33 telephone system functionally equivalent to the access
34 available to persons who do not ~~communication-impaired~~ have a
35 communication impairment.

1 to be accessed, are being provided for in the chapter, and
2 makes a similar addition to Code section 477C.4 regarding
3 distribution of telecommunications devices for the deaf. The
4 bill provides that a "person with a communication impairment"
5 refers to an individual who is deaf, hard-of-hearing, or has a
6 speech, mobility, cognitive, or any other sensory or physical
7 impairment that limits an individual's ability to use or
8 access the telephone system. The bill provides for the
9 addition of "adapted" telephone equipment to the definition of
10 a "telecommunications device for the deaf".

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