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SENATE FILE 244
BY BOLKCOM and DVORSKY

(COMPANION TO LSB 2688HH
BY BODDICKER)

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, 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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SF 244
COMMERCE

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 4. "Person with a communication impairment" means an
2 individual who is deaf, hard-of-hearing, or has a speech,
3 mobility, cognitive, or other sensory or physical impairment
4 that limits the individual's ability to use or access the
5 telephone system.

6 5. "Telecommunications device ~~for-the-deaf~~" means any
7 specialized, or supplemental telephone, or adapted equipment
8 used by ~~communication-impaired-persons~~ a person with a
9 communication impairment to provide use or access to the
10 telephone system.

11 Sec. 3. Section 477C.4, Code 2003, is amended to read as
12 follows:

13 477C.4 TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVICES ~~FOR-THE-DEAF~~ --
14 DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM.

15 With the advice of the council, the board may plan,
16 establish, administer, and promote a program to secure,
17 finance, and distribute telecommunications devices ~~for-the~~
18 ~~deaf~~. The board may establish eligibility criteria for
19 persons to receive telecommunications devices ~~for-the-deaf~~,
20 including, but not limited to, requiring certification that
21 the recipient cannot use the telephone for communication
22 without a telecommunications device ~~for-the-deaf~~.

23 Sec. 4. Section 477C.5, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code
24 2003, is amended to read as follows:

25 a. Six consumers ~~who-have~~ with a communication ~~impairments~~
26 impairment.

27 EXPLANATION

28 This bill relates to the provision of a statewide dual
29 party relay service.

30 The bill provides for changes in terminology used and the
31 objectives stated in Code chapter 477C dealing with the
32 statewide dual party relay service. The bill adds the phrase
33 "equipment distribution program" to Code section 477C.1,
34 regarding the purpose of the chapter, to provide that both the
35 dual party relay service, and equipment to enable the service

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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