

Senate File 322 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 322

BY McCOY

A BILL FOR

1 An Act imposing a surcharge applicable to telecommunications
2 carriers to administer the national federation for the blind
3 newslines.

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

1 Section 1. Section 216B.3, subsection 19, paragraph a, Code
2 2011, is amended to read as follows:

3 a. The commission may enter into necessary contracts and
4 arrangements with the national federation for the blind to
5 provide for the delivery of newspapers over the telephone,
6 furnished by the national federation for the blind, and shall
7 utilize the surcharge revenue collected pursuant to section
8 477.9B to facilitate and administer such delivery.

9 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 477.9B Surcharge — national
10 federation for the blind — newsline.

11 1. The board shall adopt by rule a monthly surcharge to be
12 imposed on all telecommunications carriers providing service
13 in this state. The surcharge shall be imposed uniformly on
14 a statewide basis and calculated in an amount necessary to
15 generate fifty thousand dollars of annual surcharge revenue.
16 Imposition of the annual surcharge shall commence July 1, 2012.

17 2. The board shall provide no less than one hundred
18 days' notice of the surcharge to be imposed to each
19 telecommunications carrier. The board may adjust the amount
20 of the surcharge as necessary, but no more than once in any
21 calendar year.

22 3. The surcharge shall be collected as part of the
23 telecommunications carrier's periodic billing to a subscriber.
24 The surcharge shall appear as a single line item on a
25 subscriber's periodic billing indicating that the surcharge
26 is for the national federation for the blind newsline
27 service. The surcharges shall be remitted quarterly by the
28 telecommunications carrier to the board for deposit into the
29 fund established in subsection 5.

30 4. A telecommunications carrier is not liable for an
31 uncollected surcharge for which the telecommunications carrier
32 has billed a subscriber but which has not been paid.

33 5. Moneys collected pursuant to this section shall be
34 deposited in a separate newsline surcharge fund within the
35 state treasury under the control of the board, and shall be

1 appropriated annually to the department for the blind to be
2 utilized in administering the delivery of newspapers over the
3 telephone, furnished by the national federation for the blind
4 as provided in section 216B.3. Section 8.33 shall not apply
5 to moneys in the fund. Moneys earned as income, including as
6 interest, from the fund shall remain in the fund until expended
7 as provided in this section.

8

EXPLANATION

9 This bill establishes a surcharge applicable to
10 telecommunications carriers to administer the national
11 federation for the blind newslines.

12 The bill provides that the Iowa utilities board shall
13 adopt by rule a monthly surcharge to be imposed on all
14 telecommunications carriers providing service in Iowa,
15 beginning July 1, 2012, in an amount necessary to generate
16 \$50,000 of annual surcharge revenue. The bill states that
17 the board shall provide no less than 100 days' notice of the
18 surcharge to be imposed, and that the board may adjust the
19 amount of the surcharge as necessary, but no more than once
20 in any calendar year. The bill provides that the surcharge
21 shall be collected as part of the telecommunications carrier's
22 periodic billing to a subscriber, appearing as a single
23 line item indicating that the surcharge is for the national
24 federation for the blind newslines service.

25 The surcharge shall be remitted quarterly by each carrier
26 and deposited in a separate newslines surcharge fund within the
27 state treasury under the control of the board. The revenue
28 shall be appropriated annually to the department for the blind
29 to be utilized in administering the delivery of newspapers over
30 the telephone, furnished by the national federation for the
31 blind.