

construed to require reporting of financial activities which took place prior to January 1, 1995, if the financial activities which took place on or after January 1, 1995, would result in the committee exceeding the reporting threshold established for a particular type of committee. Any activities which took place on or after January 1, 1995, shall, however, be reported.

Approved May 31, 1995

CHAPTER 199

REGULATION OF UTILITIES PROVIDING COMMUNICATION SERVICES

H.F. 518

AN ACT relating to authorization of price regulation for utilities providing communications services.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. Section 476.1D, Code 1995, is amended by adding the following new subsection:

NEW SUBSECTION. 10. The board, at the request of a long distance telephone company, shall classify such company as a competitive long distance telephone company if more than half of the company's revenues from its Iowa intrastate telecommunications services and facilities are received from services and facilities that the board has determined to be subject to effective competition. The board shall promptly notify the director of revenue and finance that a long distance telephone company has been classified as a competitive long distance telephone company. Upon such notification by the board, the director of revenue and finance shall assess the property of such competitive long distance telephone company, which property is first assessed for taxation in this state on or after January 1, 1996, in the same manner as all other property assessed as commercial property by the local assessor under chapters 427, 427A, 427B, 428, and 441. As used in this section, "long distance telephone company" means an entity that provides telephone service and facilities between local exchanges, but does not include a cellular service provider or a local exchange utility holding a certificate issued under section 476.29, subsection 12.

Sec. 2. Section 476.3, subsection 2, Code 1995, is amended by adding the following new unnumbered paragraph:

NEW UNNUMBERED PARAGRAPH. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, the consumer advocate shall not file a petition under this subsection that alleges a local exchange carrier's rates are excessive while the local exchange carrier is participating in a price regulation plan approved by the board pursuant to section 476.30B.

Sec. 3. Section 476.10, unnumbered paragraph 4, Code 1995, is amended to read as follows:

Whenever the board shall deem it necessary in order to carry out the duties imposed upon it in connection with rate regulation under section 476.6, investigations under section 476.3, or review proceedings under section 476.31, the board may employ additional temporary or permanent staff, or may contract with persons who are not state employees for engineering, accounting, or other professional services, or both. The costs of these additional employees and contract services shall be paid by the public utility whose rates

are being reviewed in the same manner as other expenses are paid under this section. Beginning on July 1, 1991, there is appropriated out of any funds in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as may be necessary to enable the board to hire additional staff and contract for services under this section. The board shall increase quarterly assessments specified in unnumbered paragraph 2, by amounts necessary to enable the board to hire additional staff and contract for services under this section. The authority to hire additional temporary or permanent staff that is granted to the board by this section shall not be subject to limitation by any administrative or executive order or decision that restricts the number of state employees or the filling of employee vacancies, and shall not be subject to limitation by any law of this state that restricts the number of state employees or the filling of employee vacancies unless that law is made applicable to this section by express reference to this section. Before the board expends or encumbers an amount in excess of the funds budgeted for rate regulation and before the board increases quarterly assessments pursuant to this paragraph, the director of the department of management shall approve the expenditure or encumbrance. Before approval is given, the director of the department of management shall determine that the expenses exceed the funds budgeted by the general assembly to the board for rate regulation and that the board does not have other funds from which the expenses can be paid. Upon approval of the director of the department of management the board may expend and encumber funds for the excess expenses, and increase quarterly assessments to raise the additional funds. The board and the office of consumer advocate may add additional personnel or contract for additional assistance to review and evaluate energy efficiency plans and the implementation of energy efficiency programs including, but not limited to, professionally trained engineers, accountants, attorneys, skilled examiners and inspectors, and secretaries and clerks. The board and the office of consumer advocate may also contract for additional assistance in the evaluation and implementation of issues relating to telecommunication competition. The board and the office of the consumer advocate may expend additional sums beyond those sums appropriated. However, the authority to add additional personnel or contract for additional assistance must first be approved by the department of management. The additional sums for energy efficiency shall be provided to the board and the office of the consumer advocate by the utilities subject to the energy efficiency requirements in this chapter. Telephone companies shall pay any additional sums needed for assistance with telecommunication competition issues. The assessments shall be in addition to and separate from the quarterly assessment.

Sec. 4. Section 476.11, Code 1995, is amended by adding the following new unnumbered paragraph:

NEW UNNUMBERED PARAGRAPH. The board may resolve complaints, upon notice and hearing, that a utility, operating under section 476.29, has failed to provide just, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory arrangements for interconnection of its telecommunications services with another telecommunications provider.

Sec. 5. Section 476.29, subsection 2, Code 1995, is amended to read as follows:

2. Except as provided in subsection 12, a certificate shall be issued by the board, after notice and opportunity for hearing, if the board determines that the service proposed to be rendered will promote the public convenience and necessity, provided that an applicant other than a local exchange carrier, as defined in section 476.30A, shall not be denied a certificate if the board finds that the applicant possesses the technical, financial, and managerial ability to provide the service it proposes to render and the board finds the service is consistent with the public interest. The board shall make a determination within ninety days of the submission by the applicant of evidence of its technical, financial, and managerial ability, unless the board determines that additional time is necessary to consider the application, in which case the board may extend the time for making a determination for an additional sixty days. The board may establish reasonable conditions or restrictions on the certificate at the time of issuance.

Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 476.30 FINDINGS – STATEMENT OF POLICY.

The general assembly finds all of the following:

1. Communications services should be available throughout the state at just, reasonable, and affordable rates from a variety of providers.
2. In rendering decisions with respect to regulation of telecommunications companies, the board shall consider the effects of its decisions on competition in telecommunications markets and, to the extent reasonable and lawful, shall act to further the development of competition in those markets.
3. In order to encourage competition for all telecommunications services, the board should address issues relating to the movement of prices toward cost and the removal of subsidies in the existing price structure of the incumbent local exchange carrier.
4. Regulatory flexibility is appropriate when competition provides customers with competitive choices in the variety, quality, and pricing of communications services, and when consistent with consumer protection and other relevant public interests.
5. The board should respond with speed and flexibility to changes in the communications industry.
6. Economic development can be fostered by the existence of advanced communications networks.

Sec. 7. NEW SECTION. 476.30A DEFINITIONS.

As used in section 476.30, this section, and sections 476.30B through 476.30G, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. “Basic communications service” includes at a minimum, basic local telephone service, switched access, 911 and E-911 services, and dual party relay service. The board is authorized to classify by rule at any time, any other two-way switched communications services as basic communications services consistent with community expectations and the public interest.
2. “Basic local telephone service” means the provision of dial tone access and usage, for the transmission of two-way switched communications within a local exchange area, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. Residence service and business services, including flat rate or local measured service, private branch exchange trunks, trunk type hunting services, direct inward dialing, and the network access portion of central office switched exchange service.
 - b. Extended area service.
 - c. Touch tone service when provided separately.
 - d. Call tracing.
 - e. Calling number blocking on either a per call or a per line basis.
 - f. Local exchange white pages directories.
 - g. Installation and repair of local network access.
 - h. Local operator services, excluding directory assistance.
 - i. Toll service blocking and 1-900 and 1-976 access blocking.
3. “Competitive local exchange service provider” means any person that provides local exchange services, other than a local exchange carrier or a nonrate-regulated wireline provider of local exchange services under an authorized certificate of public convenience and necessity within a specific geographic area described in maps filed with and approved by the board as of September 30, 1992.
4. “Interim number portability” means one or more mechanisms by which a local exchange customer at a particular location may change the customer’s local exchange services provider without any change in the local exchange customer’s telephone number, while experiencing as little loss of functionality as is feasible using available technology.
5. “Local exchange carrier” means any person that was the incumbent and historical rate-regulated wireline provider of local exchange services or any successor to such person that provides local exchange services under an authorized certificate of public convenience and necessity within a specific geographic area described in maps filed with and approved by the board as of September 30, 1992.

6. "Nonbasic communications services" means all communications services subject to the board's jurisdiction which are not deemed either by statute or by rule to be basic communications services, including any service offered by the local exchange carrier for the first time after the effective date of this Act. A service is not considered new if it constitutes the bundling, unbundling, or repricing of an already existing service. Consistent with community expectations and the public interest, the board may reclassify by rule as nonbasic those two-way switched communications services previously classified by rule as basic.

7. "Provider number portability" means the capability of a local exchange customer to change the customer's local exchange services provider at the customer's same location without any change in the local exchange customer's telephone number, while preserving the full range of functionality that the customer currently experiences. "Provider number portability" includes the equal availability of information concerning the local exchange provider serving the number to all carriers, and the ability to deliver traffic directly to that provider without having first to route traffic to the local exchange carrier or otherwise use the services, facilities, or capabilities of the local exchange carrier to complete the call, and without the dialing of additional digits or access codes.

Sec. 8. NEW SECTION. 476.30B PRICE REGULATION.

1. Notwithstanding contrary provisions of this chapter relating to rate regulation, the board may approve a plan for price regulation submitted by a rate-regulated local exchange carrier. The plan for price regulation is not effective until the approval by the board of tariffs implementing the unbundling of essential facilities pursuant to section 476.30F, subsection 4, except for a local exchange carrier with less than seventy-five thousand access lines whose plan for price regulation will be effective concurrent with the approval of its plan. The board may approve a plan for price regulation prior to the adoption of rules related to the unbundling of essential facilities or concurrent with a rate proceeding under section 476.3, 476.6, or 476.7. During the term of the plan, the board shall regulate the prices of the local exchange carrier's basic and nonbasic communications services pursuant to the requirements of the price regulation plan approved by the board. The local exchange carrier shall not be subject to rate of return regulation during the term of the plan.

2. The board, after notice and opportunity for hearing, may approve, modify, or reject the plan. The local exchange carrier shall have ten days to accept or reject any board modifications to its plan. If the local exchange carrier rejects a modification to its plan, the board shall reject the plan without prejudice to the local exchange carrier to submit another plan.

3. A price regulation plan, at a minimum, shall include provisions, consistent with the provisions of this section and any rules adopted by the board, for the following:

a. (1) Establishing and changing prices, terms, and conditions for basic communications services. The initial plan for price regulation must include a proposal, which the board shall approve, for reducing the local exchange carrier's average intrastate access service rates to the local exchange carrier's average interstate access service rates in effect as of the last day of the calendar year immediately preceding the date of filing of the plan, as follows:

(a) A local exchange carrier with five hundred thousand or more access lines in this state shall reduce its average intrastate access service rates by at least fifty percent of the difference between average intrastate access service rates and average interstate access service rates as of the date that the plan is filed and further reduce such rates to the average interstate access service rates within ninety days of the date that the plan becomes effective.

(b) A local exchange carrier with fewer than five hundred thousand but seventy-five thousand or more access lines in this state shall reduce its average intrastate access service rates to its average interstate access service rates in increments of at least twenty-five percent, with the initial reduction to take effect on approval of the plan and equal annual

reductions on each anniversary of the approval during the first three years that its plan is in effect.

(c) A local exchange carrier with fewer than seventy-five thousand access lines in this state shall reduce its average intrastate access service rates to its average interstate access service rates with equal annual reductions during a period beginning no more than two years and ending no more than five years from the plan's inception.

(2) This section shall not be construed to do either of the following:

(a) Prohibit an additional decrease in a carrier's average intrastate access service rate during the term of the plan.

(b) Permit any increase in a carrier's average intrastate access service rates during the term of the plan.

(3) The plan shall also provide that the initial prices for basic communications services shall be six percent less than the rates approved and in effect at the time the local exchange carrier files its plan. A local exchange carrier which elects to reduce its rates by six percent shall not, at a later time, increase its rates for basic communications services as a result of the carrier's compliance with the board's rules relating to unbundling. In lieu of the six percent reduction, and prior to the adoption of rules relating to unbundling pursuant to section 476.30F, subsection 4, paragraph "a", subparagraph (1), the local exchange carrier may request and the board may establish a regulated revenue requirement in a rate proceeding under section 476.3 or 476.6 commenced after the effective date of this Act. After the determination of the local exchange carrier's regulated revenue requirement pursuant to the rate proceeding, the local exchange carrier shall not immediately implement rates designed to recover that regulated revenue requirement. Following the adoption of rules relating to unbundling pursuant to section 476.30F, subsection 4, paragraph "a", subparagraph (1), the local exchange carrier shall commence a tariff proceeding for the approval of tariffs implementing such unbundling. The board has six months to complete this tariff proceeding and determine the local exchange carrier's final unbundled rates. The local exchange carrier shall carry forward the regulated revenue requirement determined by the board pursuant to the rate proceeding and design rates that comply with the board's rules relating to unbundling that recover the regulated revenue requirement, and that implement the board's approved rate design established in the tariff proceeding.

In lieu of taking the six percent reduction, a local exchange carrier that submits a plan for price regulation after the board adopts rules relating to unbundling may file a rate proceeding under section 476.3 or 476.6 and the board may approve rates designed to comply with those rules which allow the carrier to recover the established regulated revenue requirement and that implement the board's approved rate design established in the tariff proceeding.

(4) The plan shall provide for both increases and decreases in the prices for basic communications services reflecting annual changes in inflation and productivity. Prior to January 1, 1998, the board shall use the gross domestic product price index, as published by the federal government, for an inflation measure, and two and six-tenths percentage points for a productivity measure. After January 1, 1998, the board by rule may adopt current measures of inflation and productivity.

(5) The plan may provide that price increases for basic communications services which are permitted under this section may be deferred and accumulated for a maximum of three years into a single price increase, provided that a deferred and accumulated price increase under this section shall not at any time exceed six percent. A price decrease for basic communications services shall not be deferred or accumulated, except that price decreases of less than two percent may be deferred by the local exchange carrier for one year. A price decrease required under this section may be offset by a price increase for a basic communications service that would have been permitted under this section in the previous twelve-month period, but which was deferred by the local exchange carrier.

b. Establishing and changing prices, terms, and conditions for nonbasic communications services.

c. Reporting new service offerings to the board.

d. Reflecting in rates any changes in revenues, expenses, and investment due to exogenous factors beyond the control of the local exchange carrier.

e. Providing notice to customers, the board, and the consumer advocate of changes in prices, terms, or conditions for basic and nonbasic communications services.

4. The board shall consider the extent to which a proposed plan complies with the requirements of subsection 3 and achieves the following:

a. Just, nondiscriminatory, and reasonable rates.

b. High quality, universally available communications services.

c. Encouragement of investment in communications infrastructure, efficiency improvements, and technological innovation.

d. The introduction of new communications products and services from a variety of sources.

e. Regulatory efficiency including reduction of regulatory costs and delays. A plan shall not provide for waiver of, release from, or delay in implementing the provisions of this section, section 476.30F or 476.30G or any rules adopted by the board pursuant to those sections.

5. Notwithstanding an approved plan for price regulation, the board shall continue to have regulatory authority over the following:

a. The level, extent, and timing of the unbundling of essential facilities offered by a local exchange carrier.

b. Ensuring against cross-subsidization between nonbasic communications services and basic communications services.

6. Any person, including the consumer advocate, a body politic, or the board on its own motion, may file a written complaint pursuant to section 476.3, subsection 1, regarding a local exchange carrier's implementation, operation under, or satisfaction of the purposes of its price regulation plan.

7. The consumer advocate may represent consumers before the board regarding any rule, order, or proceeding pertaining to price regulation. The consumer advocate may act as attorney for and represent consumers generally before any state or federal court concerning a board rule, order, or proceeding pertaining to price regulation.

8. In implementing price regulation, the board shall consider competitively neutral methods to assist lower-income lowans to secure and retain telephone services.

9. The board shall determine the duration of any plan. The board shall review a local exchange carrier's operation under its plan, with notice and an opportunity for hearing, within four years of the initiation of the plan and prior to the termination of the plan. The local exchange carrier, consumer advocate, or any person may propose, and the board may approve, any reasonable modifications to a local exchange carrier's plan as a result of the review, except that such modifications shall not require a reduction in the rates for any basic communications service.

10. The board, in determining whether to file a written complaint pursuant to subsection 6 or prior to reviewing a local exchange carrier's operation pursuant to subsection 9, may request that such carrier provide any information which the board deems necessary to make such determination or conduct such review. The carrier shall provide the requested information upon receipt of the request from the board.

11. a. Notwithstanding subsections 1 through 10, a local exchange carrier with fewer than five hundred thousand access lines in this state shall have the option to be regulated pursuant to subsections 1 through 10 or pursuant to this subsection. A local exchange carrier which elects to become price regulated under this subsection shall also be subject to subsections 5 through 8 and subsection 10 in the same manner as a local exchange carrier which operates under an approved plan of price regulation submitted pursuant to subsection 1.

b. A local exchange carrier which elects to become price regulated under this subsection shall give written notice to the board of such election not less than thirty days prior to the date such regulation is to commence.

c. Upon election of a local exchange carrier to become price-regulated under this subsection, the carrier shall reduce its rates for basic local telephone service an average of three percent. In lieu of the three percent reduction, the local exchange carrier may establish its rates for basic local telephone service in a rate proceeding under section 476.3 or 476.6 commenced after the effective date of this Act.

d. Initial prices for basic communications services, other than basic local telephone service, shall be set at the rates in effect as of the first of July prior to the date such regulation is to commence.

e. (1) A price-regulated local exchange carrier shall not increase its rates for basic communications services, for a period of twelve months after electing to become price regulated. To the extent necessary, rates for basic services may be increased to carry out the purpose of any rules that may be adopted by the board relating to the terms and conditions of unbundled services and interconnection. A price-regulated local exchange carrier may increase its rates for basic communications services following the initial twelve-month period, to the extent that the change in rate does not exceed two percentage points less than the most recent annual change in the gross domestic product price index, as published by the federal government. If application of such formula achieves a negative result, prices shall be reduced so that the cumulative price change for basic services, including prior price reductions in these services, achieves the negative result. After January 1, 2000, the board by rule may adopt different measures of inflation and productivity if they are found to be more reflective of the individual price-regulated carriers.

(2) Price increases for basic communications services which are permitted under this subsection may be deferred and accumulated for a maximum of three years into a single price increase, provided that a deferred and accumulated price increase under this subsection shall not at any time exceed six percent. A price decrease for basic communications services shall not be deferred or accumulated, except that price decreases of less than two percent may be deferred by the local exchange carrier for one year. A price decrease required under this section may be offset by a price increase for a basic communications service that would have been permitted under this section in the previous twelve-month period, but which was deferred by the local exchange carrier. A rate change pursuant to this subsection may take effect thirty days after the notification of the board and consumers.

(3) A price-regulated local exchange carrier shall not increase its aggregate revenue weighted prices for nonbasic communications services more than six percent in any twelve-month period.

(4) A price-regulated local exchange carrier may reduce the price for any basic communications service, to an amount not less than the total service long-run incremental cost for such service on one day's notice filed with the board. For purposes of this subsection, "total service long-run incremental costs" means the difference between the company's total cost and the total cost of the company less the applicable service, feature, or function.

(5) A price-regulated local exchange carrier may offer new service alternatives for any basic communications services on thirty days prior notice to the board, provided that the preexisting basic communications service rate structure continues to be offered to customers. New telecommunications services shall be considered nonbasic communications services as defined in section 476.30A, subsection 6.

(6) A price-regulated local exchange carrier must reduce the average intrastate access service rates to the carrier's average interstate access service rates. Such carrier shall reduce the average intrastate access service rates by at least twenty-five percent of the difference of such rates within ninety days of the election to be price-regulated and twenty-five percent each of the next three years.

f. A local exchange carrier shall notify customers of a rate change under this subsection at least thirty days prior to the effective date of the rate change.

g. A local exchange carrier which elects to become price regulated under this subsection shall also be subject to the following:

(1) The local exchange carrier shall not be subject to rate-of-return regulation while operating under price regulation.

(2) All regulated services shall be provided pursuant to board-approved tariffs.

(3) All new regulated service offerings shall be reported to the board.

(4) Rates may be adjusted by the board to reflect any changes in revenues, expenses, and investment due to exogenous factors beyond the control of the local exchange carrier.

h. The board may review a local exchange carrier's operation under this subsection, with notice and an opportunity for hearing, after four years of the carrier's election to be price-regulated. The local exchange carrier, consumer advocate, or any person may propose, and the board may approve, any reasonable modifications to the price-regulation requirements in this subsection as a result of the specific carrier review, except that such modifications shall not require a reduction in the rates for any basic communications service or a return to rate-base, rate-of-return regulation.

i. This subsection shall not be construed to prohibit an additional decrease or to permit any increase in a local exchange carrier's average intrastate access service rates during the term of the local exchange carrier's operation under price regulation.

Sec. 9. NEW SECTION. 476.30C EARNINGS CALCULATION AND REPORT.

1. The consumer advocate shall calculate an estimate of the return of a local exchange carrier operating under price regulation pursuant to section 476.30B as if the carrier were subject to rate-of-return regulation. The calculation shall be based upon the annual report of such carrier and other information provided to the consumer advocate by the carrier. The calculation shall be made every two years beginning following the end of the second calendar year after the year in which the plan becomes effective. The consumer advocate shall provide a written report to the general assembly including the results of this calculation on or before July 1 of the year immediately following the two-year period for which a calculation is made. If, after a review of the information used to make the calculation required in this section, the consumer advocate determines that the public interest would be better served by a different form of rate regulation, the consumer advocate shall provide a recommendation that the general assembly direct the utilities board to implement a different form of rate regulation.

Sec. 10. NEW SECTION. 476.30D ADDITIONAL PRICE REGULATION PLAN PROVISIONS.

In addition to the provisions required in section 476.30B, a local exchange carrier, prior to operating under price regulation, shall make provision for the following:

1. Reflecting in rates any changes due to changes in the average cost of the local exchange carrier resulting from the sale of an exchange in this state.

2. Encouraging modernization of the local exchange carrier's telecommunications infrastructure. This provision shall include a requirement that the local exchange carrier develop and file with the board an increased modernization plan.

Sec. 11. NEW SECTION. 476.30E PROHIBITED ACTS.

A local exchange carrier shall not do any of the following:

1. Discriminate against another provider of communications services by refusing or delaying access to the local exchange carrier's services.

2. Discriminate against another provider of communications services by refusing or delaying access to essential facilities on terms and conditions no less favorable than those the local exchange carrier provides to itself and its affiliates. A local telecommunications facility, feature, function, or capability of the local exchange carrier's network is an essential facility if all of the following apply:

a. Competitors cannot practically or economically duplicate the facility, feature, function, or capability, or obtain the facility, feature, function, or capability from another source.

b. The use of the facility, feature, function, or capability by potential competitors is technically and economically feasible.

c. Denial of the use of the facility, feature, function, or capability by competitors is unreasonable.

d. The facility, feature, function, or capability will enable competition.

3. Degrade the quality of access or service provided to another provider of communications services.

4. Fail to disclose in a timely manner, upon reasonable request and pursuant to a protective agreement concerning proprietary information, all information reasonably necessary for the design of network interface equipment, network interface services, or software that will meet the specifications of the local exchange carrier's local exchange network.

5. Unreasonably refuse or delay interconnections or provide inferior interconnections to another provider.

6. Use basic exchange service rates, directly or indirectly, to subsidize or offset the costs of other products or services offered by the local exchange carrier.

7. Discriminate in favor of itself or an affiliate in the provision and pricing of, or extension of credit for, any telephone service.

Sec. 12. NEW SECTION. 476.30F LOCAL EXCHANGE COMPETITION.

1. A certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide local telephone service shall not be interpreted as conveying a monopoly, exclusive privilege, or franchise. A competitive local exchange service provider shall not be subject to the requirements of this chapter, except that a competitive local exchange service provider shall obtain a certificate of public convenience and necessity pursuant to section 476.29, file tariffs, notify affected customers prior to any rate increase, file reports, information, and pay assessments pursuant to section 476.2, subsection 4, and sections 476.9, 476.10, 476.16, 476.30G, and 477C.7, and shall be subject to the board's authority with respect to adequacy of service, interconnection, discontinuation of service, civil penalties, and complaints. If, after notice and opportunity for hearing, the board determines that a competitive local exchange service provider possesses market power in its local exchange market or markets, the board may apply such other provisions of chapter 476 to a competitive local exchange service provider as it deems appropriate.

2. The duty of a local exchange carrier includes the duty, in accordance with requirements prescribed by the board pursuant to subsection 3 and other laws, to provide equal access to, and interconnection with, its facilities so that its network is fully interoperable with the telecommunications services and information services of other providers, and to offer unbundled essential facilities.

3. A local exchange carrier shall provide reasonable access to ducts, conduits, rights-of-way, and other pathways owned or controlled by the local exchange carrier to which reasonable access is necessary to a competitive local exchange service provider in order for a competitive local exchange service provider to provide service and is feasible for the local exchange carrier.

Upon application of a local exchange carrier or a competitive local exchange service provider, the board shall determine any matters concerning reasonable access to ducts, conduits, rights-of-way, and other pathways owned or controlled by the local exchange carrier upon which agreement cannot be reached, including but not limited to, matters regarding valuation, space, and capacity restraints, and compensation for access.

4. a. Prior to September 1, 1995, the board shall initiate a rule-making proceeding to adopt rules that satisfy the requirements enumerated in subparagraphs (1) through (4). The rule-making proceeding shall be completed as promptly as possible. The board, upon petition or on its own motion, may conduct a separate evidentiary hearing on the same or related subjects. The evidence from a hearing may be considered by the board during the rule-making proceeding, provided that the board announces its intention to do so prior to the oral presentation in the rule-making proceeding. The rules shall do the following:

(1) Require a local exchange carrier to provide unbundled essential facilities of its network, and allow reasonable and nondiscriminatory equal access to, use of, and

interconnection with, those unbundled essential facilities on reasonable, cost-based, and tariffed terms and conditions. The board's rules must require a local exchange carrier, including those operating under a plan of price regulation, to file tariffs implementing the unbundled essential facilities within ninety days of the board's final order adopting such rules, except for local exchange carriers with less than seventy-five thousand access lines which must file such tariffs within two years of the effective date of this Act. Such access, use, and interconnection shall be on terms and conditions no less favorable than those the local exchange carrier provides to itself and its affiliates for the provision of local exchange, access, and toll services. This subsection shall not be construed to establish a presumption as to the level of interconnection charges, if any, to be determined by the board pursuant to subparagraph (2).

(2) Establish reciprocal cost-based compensation for termination of telecommunications services between local exchange carriers and competitive local exchange service providers.

(3) Require local exchange carriers to make interim number portability available on request of a competitive local exchange service provider, and to implement provider number portability as soon as the availability of necessary technology makes provider number portability economically and technically feasible, as determined by the board. The rules shall also devise a reasonable and nondiscriminatory mechanism for the recovery of all recurring and nonrecurring costs of interim and provider number portability.

(4) Develop the cost methodology appropriate for a competitive telecommunications environment.

b. The rules adopted in paragraph "a", subparagraphs (2) and (3), do not apply to local exchange carriers with less than seventy-five thousand access lines until a competitive local exchange service provider has filed for a certificate to provide basic communications services in an exchange or exchanges of the local exchange carrier, or the board determines that competitive necessity requires the implementation of the rules in paragraph "a", subparagraphs (2) and (3), by the local exchange carrier.

5. Local exchange carriers shall file tariffs or price lists in accordance with board rules with respect to the services, features, functions, and capabilities offered to comply with board rules on unbundling of essential facilities and interconnection. Local exchange carriers shall submit with the tariffs or price lists for basic communications services and toll services supporting information that is sufficient for the board to determine the relationship between the proposed charges and the costs of providing such services, features, functions, or capabilities, including the imputed cost of intrastate access service rates in toll service rates pursuant to existing board orders. The board shall review the tariffs or price lists to ensure that the charges are cost-based and that the terms and conditions contained in the tariffs or price lists unbundle any essential facilities in accordance with the board's rules and any other applicable laws.

6. This section shall not be construed to prohibit the board from enforcing rules or orders entered in contested cases pending on the effective date of this Act to the extent that such rules and orders are consistent with the provisions of this section.

7. Except as provided under section 476.29, subsection 2, and this section, the board shall not impose or allow a local exchange carrier to impose restrictions on the resale of local exchange services, functions, or capabilities. The board may prohibit residential service from being resold as a different class of service.

8. Any person may file a written complaint with the board requesting the board to determine compliance by a local exchange carrier with the provisions of sections 476.30A through 476.30E, 476.30G, and this section, or any board rules implementing those sections. Upon the filing of such complaint, the board may promptly initiate a formal complaint proceeding and give notice of the proceeding and the opportunity for hearing. The formal complaint proceeding may be initiated at any time by the board on its own motion. The board shall render a decision in the proceeding within ninety days after the date the written complaint was filed.

Sec. 13. NEW SECTION. 476.30G UNIVERSAL SERVICE.

1. The board shall initiate a proceeding to preserve universal service such that it shall be maintained in a competitively neutral fashion. As a part of this proceeding, the board shall determine the difference between the cost of providing universal service and the prices determined to be appropriate for such service.

2. The board shall base policies for the preservation of universal service on the following principles:

a. A plan adopted by the board should ensure the continued viability of universal service by maintaining quality services at just and reasonable rates.

b. The plan should define the nature and extent of the service encompassed within any entities' universal service obligations.

c. The plan should establish specific and predictable mechanisms to provide competitively neutral support for universal service. Those mechanisms shall include a nondiscriminatory mechanism by which funds to support universal service shall be collected, and a mechanism for disbursement of support funds to eligible subscribers, either directly to those subscribers, or to the subscriber's provider of local exchange services chosen by the subscriber.

d. The plan should be based on other principles as the board determines are necessary and appropriate for the protection of the public interest, convenience, and necessity and consistent with the purposes of sections 476.30 through 476.30F and this section.

Sec. 14. REPORT. The utilities board shall submit a report to the general assembly no later than January 15, 1999, concerning the implementation of price regulation for local exchange carriers furnishing communications services.

Approved May 31, 1995

CHAPTER 200

REAL ESTATE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT PILOT PROJECT AND RELATED MATTERS

H.F. 577

AN ACT relating to the establishment of a pilot program for the creation of real estate improvement districts, authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds and revenue bonds, the imposition of ad valorem property taxes, special assessments and fees, and other related matters.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. NEW SECTION. 358C.1 LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS – PURPOSE.

The general assembly finds and declares as follows:

1. The economic health and development of Iowa communities is tied to opportunities for jobs in and near those communities and the availability of jobs is in part tied to the availability of affordable, decent housing in those communities.

2. A need exists for a program to assist developers and communities in increasing the availability of housing in Iowa communities.

3. A shortage of opportunities and means for developing local housing exists. It is in the best interest of the state and its citizens for infrastructure development which will lower the costs of developing housing.

4. The expansion of local housing is dependent upon the cost of providing the basic infrastructure necessary for a housing development. Providing this infrastructure is a public