

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 46th Legislature (1998)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1108

By: Bastin of the House

and

Herbert of the Senate

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution calling on telecommunications carriers not to pass on to customers certain Oklahoma Universal Service Fund and special universal service charges; stating legislative intent to take action next session to amend certain provisions of Enrolled House Bill No. 1815 of the 1st Session of the 46th Oklahoma Legislature; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, in 1997, the Oklahoma Legislature passed House Bill No. 1815 of the 1st Session of the 46th Oklahoma Legislature, which created the Oklahoma Universal Service Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Universal Service Fund was created to promote and ensure the availability of basic telephone services at affordable rates and special universal services which include certain services to schools, libraries and hospitals, and to provide for reasonably comparable services at affordable rates in both rural and urban areas of the state; and

WHEREAS, under the provisions of Enrolled House Bill No. 1815 of the 1st Session of the 46th Oklahoma Legislature, telecommunications carriers are charged a fee to fund the Oklahoma Universal Service Fund and special universal services; and

WHEREAS, certain provisions of Enrolled House Bill No. 1815 of the 1st Session of the 46th Oklahoma Legislature allow a telecommunications carrier, at its option, to recover from its retail customers the charges paid for the Oklahoma Universal Service Fund and for special universal services; and

WHEREAS, in the last few months many telecommunications carriers in the state began adding charges to the telephone bills of customers to cover the cost of the Oklahoma Universal Service Fund and special universal services; and

WHEREAS, for many Oklahomans any additional charge on their telephone bill creates a financial burden that could affect their ability to afford telephone service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 46TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature expresses its strong desire that the telecommunications carriers in Oklahoma exercise their option under the law not to pass on to or recover from their retail customers the Oklahoma Universal Service Fund charges or special universal service charges paid by the telecommunications carrier.

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature expresses its intent to take action during the next legislative session to amend the provisions of Enrolled House Bill No. 1815 of the 1st Session of the 46th Oklahoma Legislature to not allow a telecommunications carrier to pass on to or recover from its retail customers the Oklahoma Universal Service Fund charges and special universal service charges.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission for distribution to each telecommunications carrier who is required to pay into the Oklahoma Universal Service Fund.

46-2-11748

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