



## Member Alert

April 10, 2006

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### Senate Passes HB 337 by 34-2 Vote

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*Following a long day at the Capitol, the Senate cast its final vote around 10:30 pm to pass HB 337 by a 34-2 vote. Prior to the vote, 3 floor amendments that would have “gutted” the bill were easily defeated by voice vote. The Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources committee had earlier passed the bill by an 8-1 margin to send it to the Senate floor.*

During the 30-minute floor debate, Senators Richie Sanders (R-Franklin), Dan Kelly (R-Springfield), Walter Blevins (D-West Liberty) and David Boswell (D-Owensboro) spoke for the bill or against the floor amendments. Senators Ernesto Scorsone (D-Lexington) and Julian Carroll (D-Frankfort) spoke for the floor amendments. Senators Scorsone and Johnny Ray Turner (D-Drift) voted against the bill. Two Senators abstained -- Bob Stivers (R-Manchester) and Tim Shaughnessy (D-Louisville). Rep. Scott Brinkman (R-Louisville), principle co-sponsor of the bill, was on the Senate floor during the vote.

Of particular note during the 30-minute floor debate, Sen. Blevins said that he had been opposed to telecom deregulation in the past but was convinced by his “hometown” telephone company – *Mountain Telephone Cooperative* – that the bill was good for rural areas, small telcos and their consumers. This is the type of grass-roots support legislators want and need to hear.

*The session is expected to end tomorrow after both chambers consider several more bills.*

**ACTION REQUEST:** *None at this time. But if your Senator or Representative voted for the bill, make a point to thank him or her after the session. Even if they didn't support the bill, this would be a good opportunity to make contact to say thanks for their consideration (to maintain a relationship for the future).*

This is an email publication by the Kentucky Telephone Association for the benefit and information for its members and friends. Send questions and comments to [Forest M. Skaggs](mailto:Forest.M.Skaggs), Executive Director. KTA office: 851 Corporate Drive Suite 105, Lexington, KY 40503. Tel – 859/223-9001, Fax – 859/223-2601, [www.ktaoffice.org](http://www.ktaoffice.org).