



Member Alert

Jan 12 2006

Telecom Regulatory Reform Bill filed in the House

HB 337, a telecom regulatory reform bill called the *Emerging Technology and Consumer Choice Act of 2006*, was filed in the House today. The KTA Board of Directors has endorsed the bill and all members are urged to contact their legislators to lend their support. Twenty-eight (28) representatives have already signed on as co-sponsors.

The bill is expected to be sent to the House Tourism Development and Energy Committee for a hearing, possibly as early as next Thursday. A copy of the bill can be accessed at <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/record/06RS/HB337/bill.doc> or contact the KTA office.

The premise of the bill is the recognition that effective competition exists in the state telecommunications marketplace and that consumers should be allowed to benefit from the products and services provided by all competitors. The bill applies equally to all telecom providers to encourage investment in modern infrastructure and the provision of new and innovative product and service offerings, promotions and packages in the competitive marketplace.

Key provisions of the bill:

- Eliminates outdated regulation of competitive retail telecom services market,
- Provides all companies with equal opportunity and flexibility in pricing retail packages and promotions,
- Maintains regulation of basic telecom services, consumer protection provisions and obligations,
- Applies customer-related service quality measures equally to all companies,
- Reduces regulatory filing and reporting requirements,
- Assures wholesale market obligations remain the same as they are today, and
- Allows companies to adopt an alternative form of regulation.

The bill has strong bi-partisan support evidenced by the large number of initial co-sponsors. *Democratic co-sponsors* include Joni Jenkins (primary sponsor, Louisville), Eddie Ballard (Madisonville), Larry Clark (Louisville), J.R. Gray (Benton), Mary Lou Marzian (Louisville), Reginald Meeks (Louisville), Fred Nesler (Mayfield), Tommy Thompson (Owensboro), Tom Burch (Louisville), Jim Gooch (Providence), Charlie Hoffman (Georgetown), Denis Horlander (Louisville), Chuck Meade (McDowell), Charles Miller (Louisville) and Brent Yonts (Greenville). *Republican co-sponsors* include Scott Brinkman (primary sponsor, Louisville), Jim DeCesare (Bowling Green), David Floyd (Bardstown), Mary Harper (Shepherdsville), Jeff Hoover (Jamestown), Steve Rudy (Louisville), Joe Bowen (Owensboro), Ron Crimm (Louisville), Bob DeWeese (Louisville), Mike Harmon (Junction City), Tom Kerr (Taylor Mill), Marie Rader (McKee) and Charlie Siler (Williamsburg).

ACTION REQUEST: *Contact your local representative to urge their support of HB 337.* You can contact them at the Capitol at 800/372-7181 or visit with them at home over the weekend. It is vitally important that local contacts are made on any bill. Legislators always want to know “what my folks back home” position is on a bill.

Please let the KTA office know of any contact made or if other information is needed.

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.