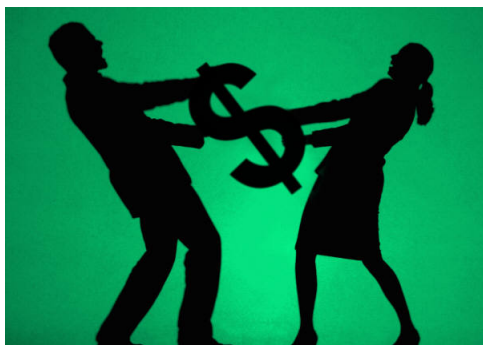


SOUTH CAROLINA CABLE TELEVISION ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PREPARED BY
ROBINSON MCFADDEN & MOORE, P.C.

2ND QUARTER 2009



AT&T DEREGULATION BILL

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The Governor signed AT&T's Deregulation bill entitled the "Customer Choice and Technology Investment Act of 2009" on May 6, 2009. (Act 7 - House Bill 3299). A local exchange carrier ("LEC") must affirmatively make an election to be alternatively regulated under Act 7. This new type of alternative regulation would be available to all LECs (including CLECs). The Act eliminates the Commission's authority to regulate most retail local and interexchange services.

AT&T and the South Carolina Telephone Coalition briefed the Public Service Commission on Act 7 on June 10, 2009. Patrick Turner of AT&T presented an outline of Act 7 and answered questions from the Commissioners. He indicated that AT&T currently draws about \$25 million from the State USF per year. If AT&T makes the election, after the first year they will only withdraw \$20 million and after the second year, it would drop to \$15 million. In the third year

the withdrawal would go to zero with two exceptions: Lifeline and pursuant to an exception petition. A carrier can petition before the end of the second year to continue receiving support based on the number of stand-alone basic residential lines in place at the time of the petition.

Most of the questions from the Commissioners concerned consumer complaints. Turner indicated that any end user's questions and complaints would be addressed in the same way they are addressed in any other unregulated industry. He indicated that AT&T would still try to work with the Office of Regulatory Staff to resolve complaints without the complaint being escalated to Magistrate's Court. Turner also indicated that the percentage of AT&T's customers that would be considered stand-alone single line residential customers is very low, approximated 50,000 out of 1,000,000 lines.

continued on page 6.....



NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Cable family:

It is hard to believe nine months has gone by since the South Carolina Cable Television Association has taken this bold new direction opening its office directly across the street from South Carolina's state capitol. Let me first take this opportunity to sincerely thank each of you for your support and guidance since last fall. Many of you have traveled to the capitol city to join me at legislative hearings, meetings, visits and receptions. The legislature has experienced one session of the NEW SC Cable Television Association and I am proud to say they know who we are and the legislators are pleased that our team is ready, willing and able to assist each of them and their constituency.

The new association offices have been a perfect Monday morning strategic planning place for our lobbying and legal team during session. The association experienced some wins this session with the great help from our team: The Campbell Group (Darrell Campbell), Thompkins/Kinard (Warren Thompkins, Graham Tew & Jason Puhlaski) and Time Warner Cable (Dan Jones, Ben Breazeale & Vicky Parker). We especially appreciate the much needed legal expertise from the Robinson McFadden Law Firm (Bonnie Shealy).

I appreciate the great responses I received from you regarding the upcoming 2009 summer meeting in Asheville NC. The SCCTA board chairman, Mary Anne Jacobs and I recently spent an afternoon together formulating a very busy agenda for each of our meetings. Some of you have indicated you would be most interested in a detailed legislative strategic planning session in Asheville. Since our agenda is full and each of our companies are on such different levels legislatively, I would prefer visiting you this fall for individual legislative planning prior to the commencement of the 2010 session. If you have any specific ideas, I thank you in advance for sharing them with me.

Our friends at NCCTA were very proud of the visits SC made during the 2009 Key Contact Conference in Washington DC. I thank each of you for joining me as we personally visited each member of our state's congressional delegation.

Let me thank you again for your contribution to our successes these last nine months. **TEAMWORK** is why we experienced this great new beginning but this is just the start. There is so much more we can do as an association to protect, support and market the cable industry.

Keep sending me your ideas as we continue to improve your SC Cable Television Association!

Ray Sharpe

MEMBER NEWS.....

Atlantic Broadband's Operation Mail Call

Atlantic Broadband launched Operation Mail Call in Barnwell, Bamberg and Allendale Counties to bring customers closer to their family members serving in the Persian Gulf and Afghanistan by providing them with free high-speed Internet service. Atlantic Broadband is adding to its first-in-the-nation public service project by giving a dozen families in Aiken and more than 200 on the East Cost with free email access to their family members serving in the military. Vice President and General Manager Sam McGill indicated that Operation Mail Call allows Atlantic Broadband's customers, including those who otherwise could not afford it, to exchange email with their loved ones at any time of the day or night. Atlantic Broadband's Operation Mail Call won the 2008 Community Service Project of the Year Award from the South Carolina Cable Television Association. Additional information is available at www.atlanticbb.com.

Atlantic Broadband Teams with Aiken Chamber of Commerce and Bloomberg News

Atlantic Broadband, the Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce, and Bloomberg News presented a lecture by Jane Applegate, "Flourishing in Tough Economic Times," to the Aiken business community in February. Ms. Applegate is the CEO of the Applegate Group, a multimedia communications and consulting company. She has written and produced original programming for NBC, ABC, CNN and Lifetime.

Charter's South Carolina Winners in Customer Appreciation Program, Live It with Charter^(TM)

Charter Communications, Inc.'s customer appreciation program, Live It with Charter^(TM) is a free customer appreciation and loyalty program which offers members an opportunity to earn and redeem points for Charter products and services, prizes, and entries into sweepstakes. Thomas Maher of Simpsonville was a First Prize winner and received \$1000 in Home Depot gift cards in the National \$10,000 Garden Makeover Sweepstakes. Sally Love of Belton was a First Runner Up Prize winner and received a Ticketmaster gift card with a retail value of \$200. Due to the positive customer response to the pilot of the program in Charter's East Division, Live It with Charter is now available to all Charter customers.

"The Live It with Charter program is all about our customers," said Phil Bellaria, Vice President, Customer Loyalty. "We are committed to offering our customers great value and exceptional service. With this program, we are also offering them the opportunity to win unbelievable trips and prizes. We appreciate our customers and we are excited to offer this program nationwide."

Members of the Live It with Charter program earn points for subscribing to Charter services. These points can be redeemed for Charter products and services, prizes and entries into sweepstakes. Prizes awarded in the past range from apparel to high definition televisions and exciting vacations. For complete details about Live It with Charter, or to enroll in the program visit www.liveitwithcharter.com or call 1-877-6-LIVE IT (1-877-654-8348).

MEMBER NEWS.....(continued)

Greenville Resident is Charter Online Sweepstakes Winner

Aaron Spencer wins a year's free Charter services

(Simpsonville, SC) – April 28, 2009 - Charter Communications today announced that Aaron Spencer of Greenville, South Carolina is one of four nationwide winners in Charter's Quiz Show On-Line Sweepstakes. Mr. Spencer wins Charter's Ultimate Bundle of services, including Charter Digital Home video service, 10mbps High-Speed Internet, a Digital Video Recorder, High-Definition service and Charter Telephone local and unlimited long distance, all for one year. Charter's online *Quiz Show Sweepstakes* was conducted from February 23 through April 14th on Charter's website at www.charter.com.

"This is awesome," said Mr. Spencer. "This prize could not have come at a better time for us. Being a winner in this Sweepstakes was a wonderful surprise."

"We are thrilled for Mr. Spencer and his family," said Anthony Pope, Vice President and General Manager of Charter's operations in South Carolina. "The Charter Bundle is our commitment to providing our customers the best value in home entertainment, and our Sweepstakes makes certain that winners enjoy the full benefit of our services."

Charter's Quiz Show On-Line Sweepstakes was an interactive on-line quiz game, offering the opportunity for each website visitor to complete a quiz, then register for a random drawing for one of four prizes. Other national winners were from Oregon, Missouri and Connecticut.

Brooke Sinclair, Charter's Director of Marketing, presented Aaron Spencer with his Sweepstakes prize on Monday, April 27, 2009, at the Charter offices in Simpsonville, SC. Mr. Spencer of Greenville, South Carolina is one of four nationwide winners in Charter's *Quiz Show On-Line Sweepstakes*. Mr. Spencer wins Charter's Ultimate Bundle of services, including Charter Digital Home video service, 10mbps High-Speed Internet, a Digital Video Recorder, High-Definition service and Charter Telephone local and unlimited long distance, all for one year. Charter's online *Quiz Show Sweepstakes* was conducted from February 23 through April 14th.



MEMBER NEWS.....(continued)

Comcast Sponsors Teen Trendsetters Reading Mentors Program in Goose Creek

Teen Trendsetters Reading Mentors program was started in Florida in 2002 to improve the reading skills of younger students by pairing them with trained teen mentors. The mentors and their students spend one hour per week reading and doing other educational activities. Goose Creek High School's program pairs 119 teen mentors with 120 students from Sedgefield Elementary School. Goose Creek's program is the first in South Carolina and one of the largest in the country. The program is managed by Volunteer USA Foundation and was sponsored by Comcast which underwrites all program training, curriculum and books.



MIDLAND'S PRINCIPAL LAUDED AS TIME WARNER CABLE'S CHAMPION PRINCIPAL IN NATIONAL COMPETITION

Columbia, SC (May 4, 2009) - Randall Gary, principal at Dent Middle School in Columbia received Time Warner Cable's Champion Principal Award. It was announced today by Carol Hevey, executive vice president of Time Warner Cable's Carolina Region. Now in its third year, the award recognizes an outstanding principal who supports and understands the use of technology as an effective classroom learning resource. In addition to a \$5,000 technology grant, Gary will be honored during the company's 20th annual National Teacher Awards event on June 3, in Washington, D.C. Gary will be honored with teachers who developed winning classroom projects selected for this year's Awards.

"A principal's encouragement and support can make a tremendous difference in how effectively technology is used in today's classrooms," said Hevey. "As Time Warner Cable's 2009 Champion Principal, Mr. Gary is known for aggressively seeking school programs that reach the long term goal of preparing his students for a bold, new technological, multi-cultural, global society."

Time Warner Cable's National Teacher Awards and the Champion Principal Award are an important part of the company's community service and educational support. What began as a commitment to connect schools in its coverage areas to cable and provide commercial-free educational programming to those schools has grown to keep pace with changes in education and technology. Teacher training, supplemental materials and curriculum-specific lesson plans are now included, all as a public service.

In addition Road Runner, Time Warner Cable's broadband Internet is offered at no cost to schools and public libraries. To date, close to 8 million students in Time Warner Cable markets have access to high quality, timely, informative programming which, in the hands of teachers becomes the springboard for valuable classroom experiences.

AT&T Deregulation Bill (continued from page 1)...

The Coalition indicated that its briefing was to answer any questions the Commissioners had after the AT&T presentation. The Coalition indicated that at the present time none of the rural carriers had a current intent to make the election to be deregulated under Act 7. They want to continue to operate as carriers of last resort. The materials and transcripts from both briefings are available on-line at the Commission's website <http://www.psc.sc.gov/> under "Allowable Ex Parte Briefings."

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ON THE NEW DEREGULATION LEGISLATION

Which carriers can elect the new form of alternative regulation?

This new type of alternative regulation would be available to all carriers. If the carrier had previously elected to be alternatively regulated under S.C. Code Section 58-9-576(B), the election becomes effective five days after notice of the election is filed with the Public Service Commission. Others make the election by the Commission determining (1) that the LEC has an approved interconnection agreement with another unaffiliated carrier, or (2) that another provider's service competes with the LEC's basic local exchange service. For these carriers the election becomes effective thirty days after the notice is filed. SC Code § 58-9-576(C).

Which services are deregulated?

Electing LECs would be deregulated for most of their retail services. The Commission retains the authority to ensure that the LEC does not increase stand-alone basic residential rates in service before the effective date of the election beyond the Gross Domestic Product Price Index's increase on an annual basis. The Commission also retains authority to ensure that the LEC allows a spouse, family member or co-tenant who lives at the customer's residence to keep the account if the customer dies or moves. Basic local residential services put into service on or after the election effective date and retail long distance services offered by the electing LEC or its affiliates are also deregulated.

Which services would not be deregulated?

In addition to the regulation for stand-alone basic residential services described above, wholesales services, including switched access services, carrier-to-carrier agreements and carrier-to-carrier complaints regarding nonretail services would not be deregulated.

Does the election affect the Commission's jurisdiction to enforce federal law?

The Commission's authority under federal or state law to make determinations regarding market entry or other matters in areas served by rural telephone companies is not affected. The interconnection obligations imposed on ILECs by the Telecommunications Act are not affected by the election. The Act provides for the Commission to enforce federal requirements on the electing LEC's marketing activities. It specifically prohibits the Commission from enforcing its prior orders imposing Win Back restrictions.

How does Act 7 affect the electing carriers contributions to the state universal service fund?

The electing carrier would continue to pay into the state USF and Interim LEC fund.

Continued on page 7.

Q&A – Deregulation (continued from page 6)

How does Act 7 affect withdrawals from the state USF and Interim LEC funds?

The electing carriers' withdrawals from both funds are reduced over a two year period and then eliminated with one exception. For one year after the election effective date the LEC receives 80% of its pre-election amount. The next year, the amount is further reduced so that the LEC receives 60% of its pre-election amount. At the end of the second year, the LEC is no longer entitled to withdraw any funds from either the Interim LEC fund or the state USF.

How does the election affect Lifeline matching funds?

The electing LEC is entitled to withdrawal from the state USF all amounts needed to fund any state Lifeline match for federal Lifeline credit amounts.

Does Act 7 affect withdrawals from the state USF and Interim LEC funds for carriers who do not make the election to be deregulated?

No, the Interim LEC fund and the state USF continue to operate as in the past for LECs who do not make the election.

Does Act 7 affect the Commission's complaint process?

Yes, the Act moves the jurisdiction to resolve complaints from the Commission to the Court system.

How does Act 7 affect the Office of Regulatory Staff?

The Office of Regulatory Staff must maintain copies of all written complaints against electing LECs on the following:

- (a) allegations that residential and business customers are unable to obtain the functional equivalent of basic local exchange service;
- (b) allegations of anticompetitive practices; and
- (c) allegations regarding violations of contract terms and conditions by an electing LEC.

The Office of Regulatory Staff also reports to the General Assembly every 5 years on the Act's effect on residential and business consumers in areas served by the electing LECs. The reports detail any patterns or practices by electing LECs of violating the terms and conditions of their contracts with residential or commercial customers or engaging in anticompetitive activity. If the Executive Director of the Office of Regulatory Staff considers it to be in the public interest, ORS may file an action in the name of the State in any court of competent jurisdiction against an electing LEC seeking a restraining order or permanent injunction if the LEC engages in a pattern or practice of violating the terms of its contract or of engaging in anti-competitive activities.

REGULATORY UPDATES

Secretary of State

The Secretary of State's Office developed a new form to address a timing issue related to the expiration of local franchises. Since the approval process for obtaining a State-Issued Certificate takes several months, several cable companies have applied for state certificates prior to the expiration of their current local franchise in order to avoid operating without a certificate. The Secretary of State's new form, "Cover Letter for Application," allows the Cable Provider to include the expiration date for the franchise authority and request that the State-Issued Certificate become effective immediately upon expiration of the local franchise. It is now available on the Secretary of State's website <http://www.scsos.com/forms/cablefranchise/CableCoverLetter.pdf>.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
SECRETARY OF STATE



COVER LETTER FOR AN APPLICATION FOR A STATE-ISSUED CERTIFICATE OF FRANCHISE AUTHORITY

Pursuant to South Carolina Code of Laws §58-12-310, the Cable Provider is submitting an application to the South Carolina Secretary of State's Office for a State-Issued Certificate of Franchise Authority. Although this application is being submitted prior to the expiration of the local government issued franchise, the Cable Provider understands that the submission to the Secretary of State's Office in no way subjects or avails the Cable Provider to the state-issued certificate of franchise authority provisions of South Carolina Code of Laws §58-12-300 et seq. Additionally, the Cable Provider understands that the Secretary of State will not issue a state-issued certificate of franchise authority until the day following the expiration of the local government issued certificate of franchise authority.

By submitting this cover letter with the Application for State-Issued Certificate of Franchise Authority, the Cable Provider is affirming the following information:

- (1) This application is not being submitted more than 80 days prior to the expiration of the local government issued certificate of franchise authority.
- (2) The application is for the following municipalities, and the expiration date of the franchise authority issued by those municipalities is:

Name of Municipality

Expiration Date

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- (3) The Cable Provider understands that the submission of this application prior to the expiration date of the local government issued certificate of franchise authority in no way subjects or avails the Cable Provider to the provisions of S.C. Code of Laws §58-12-10 et seq.
- (4) The Cable Provider understands that the Secretary of State will not issue a state-issued certificate of franchise authority until the day following the expiration of the local government issued certificate of franchise authority.

Date _____

Name of Cable Provider

Officer/General Partner's Signature

Type or Print Name

Address

Telephone Number

REGULATORY UPDATES *(continued from page 8)*

Department of Revenue

The Department of Revenue issued Information Letter 09-9 which announces the annual sales tax holiday weekend will begin Friday, August 7, 2009, at 12:01 a.m. and end Sunday, August 9, 2009, at midnight.

Public Service Commission

On June 26, 2009, the SC State Register published the final regulations governing Annual Reporting Requirements for Eligible Telecommunications Carriers and Prepaid Bonds for Local Carriers. Federal regulations require that the PSC file an annual certification stating that all federal high-cost support funds provided to ETCs within SC are used for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. The new regulation outlines the filing and annual reporting requirements

South Carolina Public Service Commissioner Mignon Clyburn has been nominated by President Obama to serve as a Commissioner at the FCC.

Time Warner Cable Granted Rural Authority

On June 11, 2009, the Public Service Commission issued Order No. 2009-356(A) approving Time

Warner Cable Information Services' application to amend its certification offer telephone service in the service areas of the following rural incumbent carriers: Farmers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.; Fort Mill Telephone Co.; Home Telephone Co.; PBT Telecom, Inc.; and Rock Hill Telephone Co. The Commission did not impose the conditions on certifications requested by the rural carriers. The Order is available on the Commission's website <http://www.psc.sc.gov/> in the Docket Management System (DMS) in Docket Nos. 2008-325-C through 2008-329-C.

USF Update

The Commission granted the request of the Office of Regulatory Staff, the S.C. Cable Television Association, and the S.C. Telephone Coalition to prioritize the issue of whether basic local services lines that are part of a package or a "bundle/contract offering" should receive State Universal Service Fund support. The Commission postponed the schedule August 10th hearing date for oral arguments until after the bundled services issue has been addressed. David Butler was appointed as hearing officer. A status conference to discuss establishing deadlines for prefiled testimony and a hearing date was held on July 6th.

Broadband Deployment

The SC Broadband Commission presented its contract to lease excess Educational Broadband Service spectrum to Clearwire and Digital Bridge Communications to the Joint Bond Review Committee in early June. The excess spectrum is from the 67 licenses issued to the S.C. Educational Television Commission. The Committee sent the plan to a subcommittee. The contract must receive final approval from the S.C. Budget & Control Board.

STATE-ISSUED CERTIFICATES OF FRANCHISE AUTHORITY

AT&T provided notice to the town of Arcadia Lakes that it would begin providing video service on May 25th pursuant to its State-Issued Certificate of Franchise Authority. As of June 29, 2009 2009, the South Carolina Secretary of State has issued the following certificates of franchise authority:

<i>Company</i>	<i>Areas</i>
ATLANTIC BROADBAND.....	Snelling, Fairfax, Barnwell, Williston, Bamberg, Bamberg County, Denmark, Allendale, Aiken, Aiken County, Burnetttown, Jackson, New Ellenton
BALDWIN COUNTY INTERNET/ DSSI SERVICE, LLC.....	Beaufort County, Charleston County, Greenville, Greenville County
BELLSOUTH..... TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. d/b/a AT&T SOUTH CAROLINA	Anderson, Anderson County, Arcadia Lakes, Blythewood, Calhoun County, Camden, Cayce, Central, Clemson, Columbia, Duncan, Easley, Elgin, Forest Acres, Greenville, Greenville County, Greer, Irmo, Kershaw County, Lexington County, Liberty, Lyman, Mauldin, Oconee County, Pickens, Pickens County, Richland County, Seneca, Spartanburg, Spartanburg County, Springdale, West Columbia, York, York County
BERKELEY CABLE TV, INC.....	Moncks Corner, Harleyville
BROADBAND EXPERIENCE..... d/b/a FAMILY VIEW CABLEVISION	Central, Pickens County, Clemson
CATAWBA, INC.....	Rock Hill
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS, LLC...	Greer, Mauldin, Newberry County, Pickens County, Union, Whitmire, Woodruff, Pelzer, West Pelzer, Easley, Greenville, Travelers Rest, Greenville County, Starr, Oconee County, Salem, Spartanburg, Clinton, Laurens, Honea Path, Six Mile
CHESNEE COMMUNICATIONS.....	Cherokee County, Spartanburg County, Chesnee
COMCAST OF CAROLINA.....	Goose Creek, Hampton County, Edisto Beach, James Island
COMCAST OF GEORGIA/SC II.....	Edisto Beach, Meggett, Hollywood, Town of Seabrook Island
COMCAST OF GEORGIA/SC INC.....	Hampton County, Aiken County, Burnetttown
COMCAST OF THE SOUTH.....	Calhoun Falls, Prosperity
FALCON VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS...	Beaufort, Beaufort County
FARMERS TELEPHONE..... COOPERATIVE, INC.	Andrews, Coward, Greeleyville, Lane, Lynchburg, Mayesville, Paxville, Pinewood, Scranton, Sumter, Turbeville, Clarendon County Florence County, Georgetown County, Lee County, Sumter County, Williamsburg County
FTC DIVERSIFIED SERVICES, INC.	Bishopville, Kingstree, Lake City, Manning, Olanta, Summerton, Sumter, Clarendon County Florence County, Georgetown County, Lee County, Sumter County, Williamsburg County

State-Issued Certificates of Franchise Authority *continued...*

HARGRAY CATV CO., INC..... Jasper County, Estill, Hampton

HOME TELECOM..... Goose Creek, North Charleston, Charleston

HORRY TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE... Conway, Surfside Beach

HPI ACQUISITION CO., LLC..... Anderson, Due West

MANAGED SERVICES INC..... Jasper County, Berkeley County, Richland County, Horry County

METROCAST COMMUNICATIONS..... McColl, Marlboro County
OF MISSISSIPPI, LLC

NORTHLAND CABLE TELEVISION..... West Union, Pickens County, Seneca, Laurens County

NU VU COMMUNICATIONS.....Gaffney

PALMETTO RURAL TELEPHONE.....Cottageville, Lodge, Smoaks, Walterboro, Williams, Bamberg County,
COOPERATIVE, INC. Colleton County

PASSPORT COMMUNICATIONS..... Fort Mill

PINE TREE CABLEVISION..... Lamar, McBee, Cottageville, Kershaw County, Bamberg County, Orangeburg
County, Aiken County, Perry, Wagener, Salley, Bethune, Gaston, Jefferson,
Barnwell County

TECHCORE CONSULTANTS II..... Orangeburg County, Holly Hill, Ehrhardt, Bowman, Eutawville, Dorchester
County

TIME WARNER CABLE, LLC.....Andrews, Georgetown County, Charleston County, Andrews

TIME WARNER ENTERTAINMENT..... Myrtle Beach, Conway, Surfside Beach, Sumter, Sumter County,
ADVANCE/NEWHOUSE PTRSHP Richland County, Orangeburg, Orangeburg County, Columbia, Forest Acres,
Lee County, Quinby, Myrtle Beach Air Force Base, Cayce, Springdale, West
Columbia, Florence County, Georgetown County

TIME WARNER ENTERTAINMENT
ADVANCE/NEWHOUSE PTRSHP..... Clover, Fort Mill, York County
-CHARLOTTE DIVISION

TIME WARNER NY CABLE, LLC..... Dillon County, Nichols, Bluffton, Hardeeville, Jasper County, Hilton Head,
Marion County, Lakeview, Goose Creek, Georgetown County

VIDEO VISION, INC.....Heath Springs, Kershaw, Lancaster County, Fort Lawn

YRT2, INC..... Greenville, Greenville County, Berkeley County, Dorchester County,
Summerville, Columbia, Horry County, Myrtle Beach

SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



The first session of the General Assembly adjourned in June. The following bills of interest were enacted since the last newsletter:

Act Unnumbered – Senate Bill 12 - S.C. Taxation Realignment Commission

The Governor signed Senate Bill 12 establishing the South Carolina Taxation Realignment Commission on June 30, 2009. The Commission is to conduct a comprehensive study assessing the effectiveness of the state's current tax system and submit a report of its recommended changes by December 1, 2009. The report would include recommendations of sales tax exemptions or limitations to be retained, modified or repealed. The Commission would evaluate the entire tax structure including all revenue laws including those imposed by any local taxing entity and the property tax system.

Act 7 – House Bill 3299 - Customer Choice and Technology Investment Act of 2009

See pages 1 & 6 for a discussion of the AT&T deregulation bill.

Act 46 - House Bill 3550 – Energy Standard Act

This Act revises the Building Energy Efficiency Standard Act and redesignates it as the Energy Standard Act which adopts the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code as the new standard.

The following new bills were introduced since the last newsletter:

House Bill 3992 – South Carolina Fair Tax Act

This bill proposes to repeal the current Income Tax Act, Sales and Use Tax, and Estate Tax provisions and replace them with a simplified tax law that taxes all consumption of goods and services once. It was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee on April 29, 2009.

House Bill 4041 – Internet

This bill would require telephone utilities to provide Internet service in every exchange area. If a utility refuses or is unable to provide service, it must cede service in the affected area to a utility that agrees to provide Internet service. It was referred to the House Labor, Commerce & Industry Committee on May 14, 2009.

House Bill 4153 - Lobbyists

This bill requires lobbyists and lobbyists' principals to pay all outstanding penalties before resuming lobbying activities and authorizes the State Ethics Commission to enforce filing requirements and assess penalties for failure to file. It was referred to the Judiciary Committee on June 16, 2009.

FCC BRIEFS

The following documents can be downloaded from the FCC's website at <http://www.fcc.gov>

On June 15, 2009, the FCC issued an Order extending the June 20, 2009, date for the end to the permissive calling period during which Internet-based TRS providers may continue to complete the non-emergency calls of unregistered users. (DA 09-1323).

On June 4, 2009, the FCC released its latest report on telephone subscribership levels. In November 2008, telephone subscribership penetration rate was 95.0%. The report can be downloaded from the Wireline Competition Bureau Statistical Reports Internet site at <http://www.fcc.gov/wcb/stats> .

On May 13, 2009, the FCC issued a Report and Order to protect consumers of interconnected VoIP service from the abrupt discontinuance, reduction or impairment of their service without notice by extending the discontinuance obligations for domestic non-dominant carriers to providers of VoIP services. (FCC 09-40).

On May 6, 2009, the Commission issued its Quarterly Reports on Informal Consumer Inquiries and Complaints for the 3rd and 4th quarters 2008. During the 4th quarter, the total number of inquiries for all categories increased more than 116% and complaints increased over 28%. Cable and Satellite Services-related complaints decreased. The report can be viewed at <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/quarter/welcome.html>.