



SCCTA

SOUTH CAROLINA CABLE TELEVISION ASSOCIATION

UPDATE ON CHANGES TO THE INTERIM LEC FUND



The S.C. General Assembly created the Interim Local Exchange Carriers Fund in 1996 at the same time the S.C. Universal Service Fund was created. The Fund enabled incumbent local exchange carriers to lower access charges by providing a mechanism to offset the resulting loss of revenues. It was supposed to be a temporary fund until the S.C. Universal Service Fund was implemented.

In November the Federal Communications Commission released the Universal Service Fund-Intercarrier Compensation Reform Order creating a federal access charge recovery mechanism to offset reductions to interstate and intrastate access rates. As a result the S.C. Office of Regulatory Staff petitioned the Public Service Commission to review the federally mandated reductions. The Commission held that the Interim LEC Fund revenues are revenues from bulk-billed intrastate switched access service. Therefore, the Interim LEC Fund should be treated as tariffed switched access for purposes of determining participating local exchange carriers' eligible recovery amount in the transition to the federal recovery mechanism. The effect of this characterization is that the Interim LEC Fund will go away on the schedule set by the FCC for phasing out access charges. As reported in the last newsletter, the FCC suspended the Access Recovery Charge rates implemented by companies and instituted an investigation in July. As a result, the PSC revised its earlier order and allowed ORS to collect interim LEC Fund contributions and withhold disbursement of the amount attributed to terminating switched access until the FCC concluded its investigation.

In December, the FCC issued its order terminating its investigation and clearing the tariffs of several S.C. carriers. This freed ORS to move forward and reduce the Interim LEC Fund as part of the FCC's access reform process. On December 12th ORS notified the S.C. Commission that starting with the January 2013 Interim LEC Fund monthly bills, ORS would adjust contributions to account for the FCC required reductions and for funds contributed from July through December, but withheld. That portion of the payments associated with terminating switched access charges withheld will be credited back to the contributing carriers over a 4-month period. ORS indicated that the Interim LEC Fund will be reduced for the fiscal year beginning in July 2012 from \$32 million to \$24 million. ORS projects that the Fund will be reduced for the fiscal year beginning July 2013 from \$13 to \$14 million. The two year reduction from \$32 million to \$13 million is the result of the FCC order phasing out terminating access charges and the agreement in the South Carolina case that the Interim LEC Fund is an access charge fund. The remaining \$13 million represents originating access charges.

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From the Executive Director....

The first session of the 120th General Assembly of South Carolina has begun! The General Assembly has a plethora of issues they would like to address this year:

Education: This is SC's largest budget item. The legislature may finally address how to better fund rural areas to provide rural students with a "minimally adequate" education.

Election Reform: The GA will look at how candidates file their statements of economic interests. Early voting will be another election topic.

Ethics: New disclosures filed regarding legislative employment, disclosure of donors for secretive groups who oppose candidates and limits on contributions to some political groups will be addressed.

Hacking: A plan to provide constituents continued protection beyond one year could make this coverage a recurring budget item.

Health Insurance: Public employees and retirees costs are rising and the legislature will address who should pay for these increases.

Medicaid: The federal health care law goes into full effect in 2014 but many in the GOP and Governor Haley oppose expansion. A lot of discussion is expected on this as the hospitals and their allies favor this idea.

Restructuring: The GA will continue to discuss creating a Department of Administration, which has been a legislative topic for the last decade.

Infrastructure: Billions of dollars are needed to repair SC's crumbling roads and bridges. Who will pay for this and should this be a priority above building new interstates?

Tax reform: This is another annual issue that is almost never resolved. Expect the state's high court ruling on challenging exemptions as being unconstitutional to begin this discussion.

As you can see from the above, this year will be quite busy and many of these ideas will continue to the second session in 2014. The state appropriations bill takes up many weeks of legislative time particularly when there is more money available as recently reported by the Board of Economic Advisors.

I recently met with Rep. Rita Allison, Chairperson of the Ways and Means Committee's income tax subcommittee. Mrs. Allison reported tax reform will likely be tied to new education funding ideas and the subcommittee will again review exemptions. Rep. Allison believes this issue will continue to be discussed next session and may finally be resolved then. The General Assembly will probably not begin this process until the state Supreme Court rules on a lawsuit heard before the court in late November. Matthew Bodman of Columbia has sued the state saying the state's 78 sales tax exemptions are unconstitutional because they are special legislation that favors certain people or industries over others, which mean they violate the state Constitution's equal protection law. We are particularly watching exemptions that directly affect cable including: exemptions on supplies, technical equipment, machinery, and electricity sold to radio and television stations and cable television stations for use in producing, broadcasting and distributing programs. Exemptions for toll charges for the transmission of voice or messages between telephones exchanges, charges for telegraph messages, carrier access charges and customer access line charges established by the FCC and the SC PSC are also being carefully watched.

Your association will continue to monitor dozens of bills already filed which will directly or indirectly affect the SC cable industry and this list is expected to grow. According to many of our telecommunication colleagues, we do not expect major telecommunications legislation filed this year. Thanks again for your hard work as we continue to work together to protect and promote the South Carolina cable industry.

Ray Sharpe

PSC Elections

Terms for Seats 1, 3, 5, and 7 of the Public Service Commission expire at the end of June. The incumbents expected to seek reelection include John “Butch” Howard from District 1, Randy Mitchell from District 3, Swain Whitfield from District 5, and O’Neal Hamilton from District 7. Competition from other candidates is anticipated in each district. The screening subcommittee for the State Regulation of Public Utilities Review Committee is expected to hold public hearings on the candidates’ qualifications and then issue a report to the General Assembly who will elect the new Commissioners in the Spring.

2012 Lifeline Status Report

The S.C. Office of Regulatory Staff (“ORS”) released its *2012 Status Report on the South Carolina Universal Service Fund Lifeline and Link-up Programs* on January 10, 2013. By September 2012, more than 411,316 households in South Carolina have become eligible for Lifeline based on their participating in nutritional assistance programs alone. Recent federal reforms included four new programs and an income-level eligibility feature. To meet the needs of potential participants, ORS built partnerships with agencies and organizations that already reach the Lifeline demographic such as the Dept. of Social Services, the DHHS, the Benefit Bank, Harvest Hope, Low Country Food Bank and Golden Harvest.

SAVE THE DATE

May 5 – 8, 2013
NCTA Key Contact
Washington D.C.



Member News...



New Year, New Jobs: Time Warner Cable Brings 644 New Jobs to South Carolina

Job Fairs to be Held Throughout January and February to Fill New Roles in Columbia

COLUMBIA, S.C. – January 4, 2013 – Time Warner Cable, a provider of cable television and Internet services, today announced plans to expand its operations in Lexington County. The \$24 million investment is expected to generate 644 new jobs over the next year.

“Even in a recovering economy, Time Warner Cable continues to grow and is pleased to offer valuable, good paying jobs in Columbia,” said Carol Hevey, executive vice president, Time Warner Cable East. “The addition of 644 jobs, which increases our South Carolina workforce by more than 50 percent, emphasizes our strong commitment to South Carolina.”

Time Warner Cable plans to expand its Retention Center, Telesales Operations Support and Payment Services departments at its West Columbia campus located at 3347 Plat Springs Road. The company currently employs nearly 1,300 across the state.

“We are excited to start the year off with today’s job-creating announcement by Time Warner Cable. We celebrate the company’s decision to expand with a \$24 million investment and 644 new jobs in West Columbia. While we work to bring new companies to South Carolina, it speaks to the strength of our state’s business-friendly climate when existing businesses like Time Warner Cable succeed and grow,” said Gov. Nikki Haley.

Time Warner Cable is the largest cable provider in South Carolina and the second largest in the country. The company provides residential customers with video, high speed Internet and digital phone, and business customers with a range of communication solutions and tools, including cloud services, for all size businesses.

“Time Warner Cable has been an important part of our state’s business community for years and today’s announcement shows they are committed to growing in South Carolina. The company’s growth will bring good-paying jobs that will have an impact throughout Lexington County and the Midlands as a whole,” said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt.

The jobs will fill the new, centralized in-house Retention Center, Telesales Operations Support department and Payment Services department. Time Warner Cable is currently hiring for the new positions. A job fair will be held at the Platt Springs office on January 8 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Anyone interested in job opportunities with the company should visit the company’s careers website at <http://jobs.timewarnercable.com/>.

Member News continued...



Time Warner Cable's Brad Phillips Promoted to Regional Vice President of Government Relations

Raleigh, NC (December 3, 2012) – Brad Phillips has been promoted to regional vice president of government relations for the Southeast, covering the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama and Virginia. He begins his new role January 1.

“There’s no better advocate for Time Warner Cable and for the cable industry than Brad Phillips,” said Gary Matz, senior vice president, state government relations, Time Warner Cable. “Brad’s extensive experience and knowledge of the industry and Time Warner Cable will be a great asset in leading the Southeast government relations team.”

Phillips has been with Time Warner Cable for nearly 16 years, most recently as the vice president of government relations for North Carolina. Prior to taking on that role, Phillips served as the vice president of government and public affairs for the Raleigh Division. In 2012, the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research named Phillips one of the “Most Influential Lobbyists in North Carolina.” He currently serves on the North Carolina Cable Telecommunications Association Board of Directors and is a past President. He is also on the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Technology Association (NCTA).

SCCTA's Attorney, Frank Ellerbe, Receives Recognition

Frank Ellerbe of Robinson, McFadden was recently selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2013 for in the area of Administrative / Regulatory Law.¹ Frank has served as the SCCTA's attorney for approximately 15 years. Since it was first published in 1983, *Best Lawyers* has become universally regarded as the definitive guide to legal excellence. Congratulations Frank!



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SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The following bills were prefiled in December for the legislative session which began January 8, 2013.

Senate Bill 2 – Candidates' Economic Interest Statements

Revises filing requirements for statements of economic interests to require incumbents and new candidates to electronically file the statement prior to filing a statement of intention of candidacy. Party executive committee cannot accept statement of intention prior to its verifying that statement of economic interests has been filed. Senate Judiciary.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/2.htm



Senate Bills 4 & 67 / House Bills 3005 & 3153 – Election Procedures

Establishes early voting procedures and revises duties of Executive Director of State Election Commission. Amends qualifications to vote by absentee ballot to include early voting period. Senate & House Judiciary.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4.htm, http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/67.htm, http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3005.htm and http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3153.htm

Senate Bill 9 / House Bill 3145 – Landlord / Tenant

Provides for expedited ejection procedure for certain tenants. House Judiciary.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/9.htm and http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3145.htm

Senate Bill 13 – PAC Prohibitions

Prohibits PACs organized by or for certain statewide officials. Senate Judiciary.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/13.htm

Senate Bill 15 / House Bill 3020 – Taxpayer Fairness Act

Prohibits Department of Revenue from interpreting tax statutes. Application must be based on plain meaning of text and legislative intent. Senate Judiciary & House Ways & Means.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/15.htm and http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3020.htm

Senate Bill 16 – Initiative Petitions & Referendums

Amends constitution to allow people to repeal and enact laws and amendments by initiative petitions filed with the State Election Commission. Governor would not have veto power over initiative and referendum measures. Senate Judiciary.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/16.htm

Senate Bills 17 & 24 – Tax Credit for Identity Theft Protection

Allows a refundable tax credit against income tax liability for purchasing identity theft protection services. Senate Finance.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/17.htm and http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/24.htm

Senate Bills 22 & 28 – SC Restructuring Act of 2013

Eliminates the Budget and Control Board and creates the Department of Administration. Senate Judiciary.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/22.htm and http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/28.htm

SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (CONTINUED)**Senate Bill 25 – Identity Theft Reimbursement Fund**

Establishes the Dept. of Revenue Identify Theft Reimbursement Fund to reimburse people whose information was obtained by 3rd party from a compromised computer system maintained by state agency or governmental entity.

Senate Finance. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/26.htm

Senate Bill 27 – S.C. Business Tax Elimination Act

Allows eligible owner of pass-through business to defer taxes until income is distributed. Phases out the corporate income tax after 2023. Senate Finance. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/27.htm

Senate Bills 29 & 69 – Voter Identification

Allows voters without current photograph identification to present a statement with a provisional ballot in some circumstances. Senate Judiciary. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/29.htm and

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/69.htm

Senate Bill 33 – Charitable Deduction for Land Gifts for Conservation

Increases the total credit allowed for charitable deduction for land gifts made for conservation purposes from \$52,500 to \$150,000. Senate Finance. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/33.htm

Senate Bill 37 – Absentee Ballots

Amends the rules relating to notice of elections and absentee ballots. Senate Judiciary.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/37.htm

Senate Bill 46 – S.C. Economic Recovery Act

Temporarily provides bonus state income tax expensing deductions for new depreciable business property and provides a tax credit for employers hiring a new full-time employee who was formerly unemployed. Senate Finance.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/46.htm

Senate Bill 49 – Boards & Commissions Election Reform Act

Candidates for election to Boards and Commissions by the General Assembly must file a campaign contribution report with the Ethics Committee. Candidates or appointees are prohibited from making campaign contributions to

candidates for and members of the General Assembly. Senate Judiciary. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/49.htm

Senate Bill 51 – Secretary of State

Resolution would amend S.C. constitution to provide for the appointment of the Secretary of State by the Governor.

Senate Judiciary. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/51.htm

Senate Bill 55 – SC Budget & Control Board Transparency & Accountability Act

Legislative Audit Council would perform fiscal audits and management and performance audits of the Budget & Control Board. Senate Finance. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/55.htm

Senate Bill 59 – Voting in Primaries

Person must be registered as a member of the party to vote in a partisan primary election or advisory referendum.

Senate Judiciary. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/59.htm

SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (CONTINUED)**Senate Bill 70 – Candidates Filing**

Replaces filing requirements by deleting the reference to filing statements of intention with the executive committee of the respective party and replaces it with filing with the appropriate election commission. The State Election Commission must post filings on its website. Senate Judiciary. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/70.htm

Senate Bill 82 – Property Taxes

Reduces the property tax assessment ratio on manufacturing, utility, and mining real and personal property from 10 ½% to 6% of the value. Senate Finance. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/82.htm

Senate Bill 90 – Fees, Penalties & Fines in General Appropriations Act

General Assembly cannot authorize state agency, department or entity to increase or implement a fee, penalty, or fine in the annual General Appropriations Act. Any increase or implementation may be authorized by a separate act. Senate Finance. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/90.htm

Senate Bill 97 & House Bill 3008 – General Assembly Term Limits

Limits the number of terms members of the General Assembly can serve to 6 in the House 4 in the Senate. Senate & House Judiciary. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/97.htm and http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3008.htm

Senate Bills 98, 99 & 100 – Demand Market Area

County Government would determine if the county is placed within the correct demand market area and notify the Nielson Company and FCC. Senate Judiciary. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/98.htm , http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/99.htm , and http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/100.htm

Senate Bill 119 & House Bill 3173 – Early Voting Procedures

Establishes early voting procedures and allows absentee voting during early voting period. Senate & House Judiciary. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/119.htm and http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3173.htm

Senate Bill 120 – Voting Machines

Amends the rules regarding the number of voting machines based on historic average voter turnout. Senate Judiciary. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/120.htm

Senate Bill 130 – Lobbyist Waiting Period

Establishes a one year waiting period before a public official, member or employee may serve as a lobbyist. Prohibits employment on a matter in which he directly and substantially participated during public service or employment. Senate Judiciary. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/130.htm

Senate Bill 132 – Governor Appoints Constitutional Officers

Amends S.C. Constitution to allow Governor to appoint constitutional officers and abolish the Office of Secretary of State. Senate Judiciary. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/132.htm

Senate Bill 133 – State Ethics Commission & Lobbying

Expands powers and duties of State Ethics Commission. Prohibits members of General Assembly from receiving contributions while in session and from having leadership PACs. Former public officials and employees cannot be lobbyists for 1 year and former members of General Assembly are prohibited for 2 years. Senate Judiciary. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/133.htm

SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (CONTINUED)**Senate Bill 135 – State Election Commission**

Places the Directors of County Boards of Registration and Election under the State Election Commission's supervision and authorizes the Commission to establish the minimum qualifications, establish mandatory training and related rules. Senate Judiciary. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/135.htm

Senate Bill 148 – Identity Theft

Provides measures to safeguard protected consumers from identity theft. Senate Banking & Insurance. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/148.htm

House Bill 3006 – General Assembly Term Limits

Resolution to amend S.C. Constitution to allow terms limits for members of the General Assembly. House Judiciary. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3006.htm

House Bill 3007 – General Assembly Term Limits

Imposes term limits on members of General Assembly. House Judiciary. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3007.htm

House Bill 3009 - General Assembly Term Limits

Resolution to amend S.C. Constitution to allow terms limits for members of the General Assembly. House Judiciary. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3009.htm

House Bill 3028 – Identity Theft

Creates Identity Theft Protection Fund. House Ways & Means. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3028.htm

House Bill 3029 – Identity Theft

Creates income tax deduction for costs to purchase identity theft protection up to \$200. House Ways & Means. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3029.htm

House Bill 3081 – Business License Tax

County and city business license taxes must be based on size of business in terms of the number of employees and not on its gross income. House Ways & Means. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3081.htm

House Bill 3094 – Adjournment of Annual Session of General Assembly

Shortens the period the General Assembly is in session and deletes authority to extend the session. House Judiciary. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3094.htm

House Bill 3095 – Bill Wylie Entrepreneurship Act of 2013

Provides nonrefundable income tax credits allocated by Dept. of Commerce for qualified investments in businesses meeting certain criteria and primarily engaged in manufacturing, processing, technology services, research and development or other non-prohibited services. House Ways & Means. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3095.htm

House Bill 3116 – SC Fair Tax Act

Replaces and simplifies current SC tax system. House Ways & Means. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3116.htm

SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (CONTINUED)**House Bill 3117 – S.C. Chief Information Officer Restructuring Act**

Establishes the Department of the State Chief Information Officer. House Judiciary.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3117.htm

House Bill 3118 – Texting While Driving

Illegal to text or read texts while driving. House Education & Public Works.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3118.htm

House Bill 3121 – Use of Electronic Device While Driving

Illegal to use an electronic communication device while driving. House Education & Public Works.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3121.htm

House Bill 3128 – S.C. Regulatory Reform Act

General Assembly may not change proposed regulations submitted for review and approval by state agencies. House Judiciary. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3128.htm

House Bill 3149 – Precious Metals

Amends identification requirement for seller of precious metals, increases mandatory period for holding precious metals and increases penalties for purchase of precious metals by dealer with revoked license. House Judiciary.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3149.htm

House Bill 3152 – Lobbying

Prohibits use of public funds to contract with person whose activities include lobbying. House Judiciary.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3152.htm

House Bill 3159 – Testimony before the General Assembly

Testimony given to a General Assembly committee or subcommittee may be under oath and creates the offense of contempt of General Assembly. House Judiciary. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3159.htm

House Bill 3163 – Freedom of Information Act

Revises fees associated with FOIA requests and response time to requests. House Judiciary.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3163.htm

House Bill 3171 – Special Elections

Requires special election to fill vacancy in the Office of U.S. Senator. House Judiciary.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3171.htm

House Bill 3172 – Special Elections

Requires special election to fill vacancies in certain Executive Branch Offices. Governor may select interim appointee until special election. House Judiciary. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3172.htm

House Bill 3176 – Dates of Elections & Early Voting

Establishes early voting procedures and uniform dates for election events. Amends duties of Executive Director of State Election Commission. Candidates cannot file more than one statement of intention of candidacy for a single election and cannot be nominated by more than one party among other changes. House Judiciary.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3176.htm

SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (CONTINUED)

House Bill 3177 – Residency Requirements for General Assembly

Resolution to amend S.C. Constitution to provide that General Assembly candidates must be a qualified elector in the district for at least 90 days prior to the filing date. House Judiciary. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3177.htm

House Bill 3182 – Tax Credits for Hiring Former Inmates

Allows a tax credit up to \$10,000 for employer who hires formerly incarcerated individual as a full-time employee. House Ways & Means. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3182.htm

House Bill 3197 – Division of Elections

Creates the Division of Elections within the Secretary of State's Office. Division would have the powers, duties and responsibilities of the State Election Commission. House Judiciary. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3197.htm

FCC BRIEFS

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

On January 2, 2013, the U.S. Senate approved the re-nomination of FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn for a full five-year term retroactive to July 2012 when her current term expired.

On December 19, 2012, the FCC announced that savings from its comprehensive reform of the Lifeline program reached almost \$214 million in 2012. The savings are the result of the elimination of the "Link Up" subsidies, requiring carriers to obtain proof of income eligibility, clarifying the one per household limit, and requiring providers to verify the continued eligibility of subscribers annually. The FCC also announced the selection of 14 pilot projects in 21 states and Puerto Rico that will field test approaches to using Lifeline to increase broadband adoption among low-income Americans. The FCC will use \$14 million of the savings for the broadband pilot projects.

On December 14, 2012, the FCC established a pleading cycle on two petitions that request the FCC to alter policies to respond to the ongoing technological transition of voice networks. AT&T requested that a proceeding be opened to facilitate the telephone industry's continued transition from legacy transmission platforms and service to new services based fully on the Internet Protocol. The National Telecommunications Cooperative Assoc. requested a rulemaking to examine the means of promoting and sustaining the ongoing evolution of the PSTN from TDM to IP.

On December 13, 2012, the FCC's rules on loud television commercials took effect. The FCC's new rules require TV stations, cable operators, satellite TV providers and other pay TV providers to limit a

commercial's average volume to the same average volume as the programming it accompanies.

On December 12, 2012, the FCC created the Healthcare Connect Fund to reform and modernize its universal service program for health care.

On December 12, 2012, the FCC proposed rules to accelerate the availability to send text messages to 911 more rapidly and uniformly and to inform consumers about the availability.

On December 6, 2012, the FCC released a Report and Order in which it extended the outage reporting requirements to interconnected VoIP services.

On November 6, 2012, AT&T agreed to pay \$700,000 as part of a consent decree to resolve complaints that it switched certain customers to its mandatory monthly wireless data plans even though it promised these grandfathered subscribers they could retain their existing pay-as-you-go data plans. AT&T agreed to refund excess charges paid by individual customers.

On October 25, 2012, the FCC issued its Quarterly Report of Consumer Inquiries and Informal Complaints for the 3rd Quarter 2012. Cable and satellite services inquiries increased by 9%, radio and broadcast decreased by more than 24%, and wireline telecommunications increased by less than 1%. Bundled and VoIP-service related complaints increased 4%, cable and satellite complaints increased by 15%, and wireline complaints decreased 1%.

STATE-ISSUED CERTIFICATES OF FRANCHISE AUTHORITY

As of January 2, 2013 the South Carolina Secretary of State has issued the following certificates of franchise authority. Changes from the last newsletter are highlighted in red:

ATLANTIC BROADBAND.....	Aiken, Aiken County, Allendale, Allendale County, Bamberg, Bamberg County, Barnwell, Barnwell County, Blackville, Burnetown, Denmark, Elko, Fairfax, Jackson, New Ellenton, Snelling, Williston
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, Bamberg County, Belton, Berkeley County, Blythewood, Calhoun County, Camden, Cayce, Central, Chapin, Charleston, Charleston County, Cheraw, Cherokee County, Chesterfield County, Clemson, Clover, Colleton County, Columbia, Cordova, Dorchester County, Duncan, Easley, Edisto Beach, Elgin, Fairfield County, Folly Beach, Forest Acres, Fountain Inn, Gaffney, Gaston, Goose Creek, Greenville, Greenville County, Greer, Hanahan, Hollywood, Irmo, Isle of Palms, James Island, Kiawah Island, Kershaw County, Laurens County, Lexington County, Liberty, Lincolnville, Little Mountain, Lyman, Mauldin, McConnells, Mount Pleasant, Newberry County, North Charleston, Oconee County, Orangeburg, Orangeburg County, Pickens, Pickens County, Pine Ridge, Ravenel, Reidville, Richland County, Seabrook Island, Seneca, Six Mile, South Congaree, Spartanburg, Spartanburg County, Springdale, Sullivan's Island, Summerville, Travelers Rest, Walhalla, West Columbia, West Pelzer, Williamston, York, York County
BERKELEY CABLE TV, INC.....	Berkeley County, Bonneau, Charleston, Goose Creek, Harleyville, Jamestown, Moncks Corner, North Charleston, St. Stephens, Summerville
BROADBAND EXPERIENCE d/b/a FAMILY VIEW CABLEVISION	Central, Clemson, Pickens County
CAROLINA TELECOM SERVICES.....	Hickory Grove, Sharon
CATAWBA SERVICES, LLC	Rock Hill
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS, LLC.....	Abbeville, Anderson County, Campobello, Chesnee, Clinton, Cowpens, Duncan, Easley, Greer, Greenville, Greenville County, Honea Path, Inman, Iva, Jonesville, Landrum, Laurens, Mauldin, Newberry County, Oconee County, Pelzer, Pickens County, Reidville, Salem, Six Mile, Spartanburg, Spartanburg County, Starr, Travelers Rest, Union, Wellford, West Pelzer, Whitmire, Woodruff
CHESNEE COMMUNICATIONS.....	Cherokee County, Chesnee, Spartanburg County
CHESTER COMMUNICATIONS, LLC d/b/a TRUVISTA.....	Chester
COMCAST OF CAROLINA.....	Berkeley County, Charleston, Dorchester County, Edisto Beach, Goose Creek, Hampton County, Hanahan, Isle of Palms, James Island, Mount Pleasant, Sullivan's Island, Summerville
COMCAST OF GEORGIA/SC II.....	Beaufort County, Charleston, Edisto Beach, Hampton County, Hollywood, Meggett, Mount Pleasant, Town of Seabrook Island
COMCAST OF GEORGIA/SC INC.....	Aiken County, Burnetown, Hampton County, North Augusta
COMCAST OF THE SOUTH.....	Calhoun Falls, Prosperity
ELK COMMUNICATIONS, LLC.....	Gaston, Lexington County, Swansea
FARMERS TELEPHONE..... COOPERATIVE	Andrews, Clarendon County, Coward, Florence County, Georgetown County, Greeleyville, Lane, Lee County, Lynchburg, Mayesville, Paxville, Pinewood, Scranton, Sumter, Sumter County, Turbeville, Williamsburg County

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

FTC DIVERSIFIED SERVICES, INC.....	Bishopville, Clarendon County, Florence County, Georgetown County, Kingstree, Lake City, Lee County, Manning, Olanta, Summerton, Sumter, Sumter County, Williamsburg County
GREAT FALLS CABLEVISION, INC.....	Town of Great Falls d/b/a TRUVISTA
HARGRAY CATV CO., INC.....	Bluffton, Estill, Hampton, Hardeeville, Hilton Head Island, Jasper County
HARGRAY, INC.....	Beaufort, Beaufort County, Port Royal
HORRY TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE...	Conway, Georgetown County, Surfside Beach
HPI ACQUISITION CO., LLC.....	Anderson, Anderson County, Due West
KNOLOGY OF CHARLESTON, INC.....	City of Charleston, Charleston County, Dorchester County, Hanahan, James Island, Mount Pleasant, North Charleston, Summerville
MANAGED SERVICES INC.....	Berkeley County, Horry County, Jasper County, Richland County
METROCAST COMMUNICATIONS.....	Marlboro County, McColl OF MISSISSIPPI, LLC
NORTHLAND CABLE TELEVISION.....	Abbeville County, Clemson, Laurens County, Oconee County, Pendleton, Pickens County, Saluda, Saluda County, Seneca, Six Mile, Walhalla, West Union, Westminster
PALMETTO CABLE TV, LLC.....	Fort Mill, Lancaster County, Tega Cay
PALMETTO RURAL TELEPHONE.....	Bamberg County, Colleton County, Cottageville, Lodge, Smoaks, Walterboro, COOPERATIVE, INC. Williams
PASSPORT COMMUNICATIONS.....	Fort Mill
PINE TREE CABLEVISION.....	Aiken County, Bamberg County, Barnwell County, Bethune, Cottageville, Gaston, Jefferson, Kershaw County, Lamar, McBee, Orangeburg County, Perry, Salley, Wagener
PBT COMMUNICATIONS.....	Gilbert, Lexington, Lexington County, Monetta, Pelion, Ridge Springs, Saluda County, Summit, Wagener
RST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.....	Gaffney
TECHCORE CONSULTANTS II.....	Bowman, Dorchester County, Earhardt, Eutawville, Holly Hill, Orangeburg County
TELECOMMUNICATIONS MANAGEMENT LLC, DBA NEWWAVE COMMUNICATIONS...	Chesterfield County, Pageland
TIME WARNER CABLE, SOUTHEAST, LLC	Andrews, Batesburg-Leesville, Beaufort County, Bishopville, Bluffton, Calhoun County, Cayce, Charleston County, Cheraw Clover, Chesterfield County, Columbia, Conway, Darlington County, Dillon, Dillon County, Florence, Florence County, Forest Acres, Fort Mill, Georgetown, Georgetown County, Goose Creek, Hardeeville, Hemingway, Hilton Head, Irmo, Jasper County, Lakeview, Lane, Latta, Lee County, Lexington, Lexington County, Manning, Marion County, McBee, Moncks Corner, Myrtle Beach, Nichols, Orangeburg, Orangeburg County, Pamplico, Pine Ridge, Quinby, Richland County, Saluda County, South Congaree, Springdale, St. Matthews, Surfside Beach, Summerville, Sumter, Sumter County, West Columbia, Williamsburg County, York County
VIDEO VISION, INC.....	Fort Lawn, Heath Springs, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lancaster County
YRT2, INC.....	Berkeley County, Columbia, Dorchester County, Greenville, Greenville County, Horry County, Myrtle Beach, Summerville