

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
NINETY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 308

Introduced by Suttle, 10

Read first time January 12, 1999

Committee: Health and Human Services

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to telecommunications; to amend section
2 86-1306, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1998; to change
3 eligibility criteria for specialized telecommunications
4 equipment; and to repeal the original section.
5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 86-1306, Revised Statutes Supplement,
2 1998, is amended to read:

3 86-1306. (1) The commission shall establish standards,
4 procedures, and training specifications for the telecommunications
5 relay system and shall supervise its operation. The system shall
6 assure prompt and accurate relay of all messages seven days per
7 week, twenty-four hours per day, including holidays, and shall
8 provide at least the following services to all hearing-impaired or
9 speech-impaired persons living in Nebraska who possess specialized
10 telecommunications equipment: (a) Statewide in-state calls with
11 charges for long-distance calls billed to the person making the
12 call in a manner which the commission determines will recover the
13 cost of long-distance calls to the system; (b) out-of-state calls
14 with charges billed to the person making the call; and (c)
15 emergency calls. Any person using the system shall not be charged
16 for access to the system other than charges billed for in-state and
17 out-of-state long-distance service.

18 (2) The commission shall establish standards and criteria
19 and shall determine the eligibility of qualified low-income
20 hearing-impaired and speech-impaired persons applying for
21 specialized telecommunications equipment, which include the
22 following: (a) Only one person per household may be a recipient of
23 the telecommunications equipment; (b) an applicant shall reside in
24 a household that has telephone service; (c) a recipient of
25 equipment may not reapply for assistance more than once every five
26 years; (d) a nursing home or institution resident is eligible for
27 specialized telecommunications equipment only if he or she has
28 personal telephone service; and (e) the eligibility of applicants

1 shall be based upon income levels not in excess of two hundred
2 percent of the poverty level as established by the federal Office
3 of Management and Budget. Applications may be approved if they
4 meet the guidelines established by the commission. The commission
5 shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations necessary for
6 implementation of the Telecommunications Relay System Act and
7 guidelines for the specialized telecommunications equipment
8 program. The commission may enter into contracts with other
9 agencies or private organizations, which may include the Commission
10 for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, to operate the telecommunications
11 relay system and the specialized telecommunications equipment
12 program.

13 Sec. 2. Original section 86-1306, Revised Statutes
14 Supplement, 1998, is repealed.