

NINETY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 99

Introduced by Chambers, 11; Bromm, 23

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Lifeline Service Program (Lifeline) exists to provide a monthly credit to the phone service of qualifying low-income households; and

WHEREAS, the number of households receiving Lifeline assistance is far below the number of households which currently are eligible for Lifeline assistance; and

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Lifeline Service Program is funded through a Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund surcharge authorized by the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, LB 514 (1999), which was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, provides that all recipients of Lifeline assistance shall be exempt from any surcharges imposed for purposes of the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund; and

WHEREAS, some technical and administrative problems remain in implementing the provisions of LB 514 which pertain to the exemption for the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund surcharge.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE NINETY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Transportation Committee of the Legislature

be designated to conduct an interim study to determine (1) methods which may be employed to increase awareness and participation in the Nebraska Lifeline Service Program among eligible households and (2) the proper and most efficient method of implementing the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund surcharge exemption. This study shall include, but is not limited to:

(a) Identifying methods and procedures to promote the Nebraska Lifeline Service Program among eligible households;

(b) Investigating ways that eligible households can be simultaneously enlisted in the Nebraska Lifeline Service Program when initiating an application for services which are the basis for Lifeline assistance eligibility;

(c) Examining the implementation of the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund surcharge exemption to Lifeline households as provided in LB 514 (1999), identifying problems and concerns, and evaluating possible solutions;

(d) Identifying the resources and policies needed to maintain and update the data base of eligible Lifeline recipients; and

(e) Making recommendations to the Legislature that incorporate the findings of the interim study and drafting any appropriate rule, regulation, policy, or law that will further the goals of maximizing participation in the Nebraska Lifeline Service Program and efficiently implementing the surcharge exemption.

2. That the interim study solicit comments, suggestions, and recommendations from representatives of the Public Service Commission, the Department of Health and Human Services, the state's telecommunication industry, consumers, and interested

LR 99

LR 99

parties. The study may include a public hearing to solicit public input. The committee shall, upon the conclusion of the study, make a report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislative Council by December 1, 1999.

.....
PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATURE

I, Patrick J. O'Donnell, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Legislative Resolution 99, which was passed by the Legislature of Nebraska in the Ninety-sixth Legislature, First Session, on the XXXX(words)XXXX day of May 1999.

.....
CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE