



Iowa Communications Alliance

Geru Huser, IUB Chair

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Iowa Utilities Board

The Iowa Utilities Board regulates utilities to ensure that reasonably priced, reliable, environmentally responsible, and safe services are available to all Iowans.

Iowa Utilities Board

IUB Modernization Efforts

Agenda

1. Deregulation of local exchange service quality, Docket No. INU-2016-0001
2. Legislation
3. Universal service fund
4. Questions

Deregulation of Service Quality

- Iowa Code § 476.1D
 - Authorization for deregulation of communication services
- INU-2016-0001 – August 9, 2017
 - Board recognized and determined that there was widespread availability of effective competition for voice telephone service
 - deregulated service quality for most local exchange services

Effective competition

- The Board found:
 1. Majority of Iowans have a choice of service provider.
 - ILECs, CLECs, VoIP providers, and wireless providers.
 2. No single provider is in a position to set the market prices.
 3. Ease of market entry promotes innovation and provides competitive pressure.

What is Deregulated?

- So what was deregulated?
 - General service requirements
 - Almost all customer service rules
 - Quality of service standards
 - Rules relating to discontinuance of service
 - Network standards
 - Certificates of public convenience and necessity (CPCNs)
 - Obligation to serve

What is Regulated?

A. “Essential communications” services including:

- Dual Party Relay Service
- FCC-delegated duties
- Certain regulatory assessments
- Customer complaints regarding the quality and availability of voice communication services

What is regulated?

B. Limited complaint jurisdiction:

- Board recognized concerns that some customers in remote areas might not have any adequate alternatives
- Verification that customers have access to at least one reliable provider
- Customer confusion about where to file complaints

What is Regulated?

- Other areas of state jurisdiction continue to be regulated by statute:
 - E911 service
 - Alternative operator services
 - Slamming and cramming
 - Crossing of railroad rights-of-way

Legislation Update

HF 2446 – Introduced and passed house.

- Iowa Utilities Board's proposal to codify the Board's actions and generally clean up the statute
- The bill addresses a number of topics, including:
 - VoIP service
 - A new registration requirement
 - Dual Party Relay Service (DPRS) funding

VoIP Legislation

- The new section on IP-enabled and VoIP services would prohibit most regulation of those services, with certain exceptions:
 - Laws of general application
 - Obligations under the Telecom Act of 1996
 - Intercarrier disputes
 - Alternative operator services (inmate calling)

VoIP Legislation

- The new VoIP language would preserve assessments for:
 - 911 emergency services
 - Dual Party Relay Service
 - Direct costs of Board regulation and a share of the Board's remainder assessment

New Registration Requirement

- The bill would:
 - Add an annual registration
 - Replace the old certificates of public convenience and necessity
 - On-line fillable form
 - Automatic acknowledgement
 - Provides evidence of authorization to provide service in Iowa

Dual Party Relay Service Funding

- DPRS Iowa Code Chapter 477C
 - Authorizes all wireless and wireline local exchange carriers to Three (3) cents per month per telephone number provided in Iowa.
 - More predictable for companies and the Board
 - Pass-through to customers

Federal Universal Service Fund

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

– FCC 2016 Lifeline Order

- July 1, 2018, ETCs using paper enrollment forms must use the FCC's universal Lifeline forms
- Lifeline Application Form
- One-Per-Household Worksheet
- Recertification form

– Forms are accessible on USAC website, with links on the IUB website

Federal Universal Service Fund

- Upcoming IUB actions
 - RMU-2016-0001, review of chapter 39 universal service rules
 - Received stakeholder comment on initial proposal
 - Preparing to issue an order commencing formal rule making proceedings based upon the early comments

For More Information

Please visit the IUB website at:

iub.iowa.gov

or

Call 515-725-7300