

Second Regular Session  
Sixty-seventh General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**REREVISED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments  
Adopted in the Second House*

LLS NO. 10-0872.01 Duane Gall

**HOUSE BILL 10-1281**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Casso,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Spence,**

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**House Committees**

Transportation & Energy  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

Business, Labor and Technology  
Appropriations

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING THE DEREGULATION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE**  
102 **IN AREAS WHERE SUFFICIENT MARKET COMPETITION EXISTS,**  
103 **AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION THEREFOR.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)*

Under existing law, the Colorado public utilities commission (PUC) may relax the regulation of basic telecommunications services upon a finding that, due to increased competition, market forces will keep prices reasonable and service available to customers. The bill specifies

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

SENATE  
3rd Reading Unam ended  
May 12, 2010

SENATE  
Am ended 2nd Reading  
May 11, 2010

HOUSE  
3rd Reading Unam ended  
May 5, 2010

HOUSE  
Am ended 2nd Reading  
May 4, 2010

that the availability of services through wireless, cable, and voice-over-internet-protocol (VoIP) providers constitutes competition to basic telecommunications services and applicable market forces. Also, if an incumbent local exchange provider has lost 33% of its retail switched access lines since December 31, 2001, the bill requires the PUC to determine that market forces are sufficient to justify more flexible regulation of the provision of basic service in the incumbent local exchange provider's local service area.

The bill also requires that, if basic service is reclassified to allow more flexible regulation, any remaining regulatory requirements will be competitively neutral.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** 40-15-102, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended  
3 BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SUBSECTION to read:

4 **40-15-102. Definitions.** As used in this article, unless the context  
5 otherwise requires:

6 (10.5) "INTERCONNECTED VOICE-OVER-INTERNET-PROTOCOL  
7 (VOIP) SERVICE" MEANS A SERVICE THAT:

8 (a) ENABLES REAL-TIME, TWO-WAY VOICE COMMUNICATIONS;

9 (b) REQUIRES A BROADBAND CONNECTION FROM THE USER'S  
10 LOCATION;

11 (c) REQUIRES INTERNET PROTOCOL-COMPATIBLE CUSTOMER  
12 PREMISES EQUIPMENT (CPE); AND

13 (d) PERMITS USERS GENERALLY TO RECEIVE CALLS THAT  
14 ORIGINATE ON THE PUBLIC SWITCHED TELEPHONE NETWORK AND TO  
15 TERMINATE CALLS TO THE PUBLIC SWITCHED TELEPHONE NETWORK.

16 **SECTION 2. Repeal.** 40-15-201 (2) (a), (2) (f), (2) (g), Colorado  
17 Revised Statutes, are repealed as follows:

18 **40-15-201. Regulation by commission.** (2) The following  
19 products, services, and providers are declared to be subject to regulation

1 pursuant to this part 2 and subject to potential reclassification under  
2 section 40-15-207:

3 (a) ~~Basic local exchange service;~~

4 (f) ~~New products and services included in the definition of basic~~  
5 ~~local exchange service;~~

6 (g) ~~Dual tone multifrequency signaling;~~

7 **SECTION 3.** 40-15-301 (2), Colorado Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended BY THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING NEW  
9 PARAGRAPHS to read:

10 **40-15-301. Regulation by the commission.** (2) The following  
11 telecommunications products, services, and providers are declared to be  
12 initially subject to regulation pursuant to this part 3 and subject to  
13 potential deregulation under section 40-15-305:

14 (h) BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE; AND

15 (i) NEW PRODUCTS AND SERVICES INCLUDED IN THE DEFINITION OF  
16 BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE.

17 **SECTION 4.** 40-15-401 (1), Colorado Revised Statutes, is  
18 amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW PARAGRAPH to read:

19 **40-15-401. Services, products, and providers exempt from**  
20 **regulation.** (1) The following products, services, and providers are  
21 exempt from regulation under this article or under the "Public Utilities  
22 Law" of the state of Colorado:

23 (q) INTERCONNECTED VOICE-OVER-INTERNET-PROTOCOL (VOIP)  
24 SERVICE.

25 **SECTION 5.** 40-15-502 (2), Colorado Revised Statutes, is  
26 amended to read:

27 **40-15-502. Expressions of state policy.** (2) **Basic service.**

1 (a) Basic service is the availability of high quality, minimum elements of  
2 telecommunications services, as defined by the commission, at just,  
3 reasonable, and affordable rates to all people of the state of Colorado.  
4 The commission shall conduct a proceeding when appropriate, but no  
5 later than July 1, 1999, and no less frequently than every three years to  
6 consider the revision of the definition of basic service, with the goal that  
7 every citizen of this state shall have access to a wider range of services at  
8 rates that are reasonably comparable as between urban and rural areas.

9 (b) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS ARTICLE,  
10 THE COMMISSION MAY REQUIRE A PROVIDER TO CHARGE UNIFORM RATES  
11 FOR BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICES THROUGHOUT A PROVIDER'S  
12 SERVICE TERRITORY.

13 **SECTION 6. Appropriation.** (1) In addition to any other  
14 appropriation, there is hereby appropriated, out of any moneys in the  
15 public utilities commission fixed utility fund created in section 40-2-114,  
16 Colorado Revised Statutes, not otherwise appropriated, to the department  
17 of regulatory agencies, for allocation to the public utilities commission,  
18 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010, the sum of one hundred  
19 eighty-four thousand four hundred forty-four dollars (\$184,444) cash  
20 funds and 1.9 FTE, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the  
21 implementation of this act.

22 (2) In addition to any other appropriation, there is hereby  
23 appropriated to the department of law, for the fiscal year beginning July  
24 1, 2010, the sum of fifty-one thousand two hundred fifty-eight dollars  
25 (\$51,258) and 0.4 FTE, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the  
26 provision of legal services to the department of regulatory agencies  
27 related to the implementation of this act. Said sum shall be from

1 reappropriated funds received from the department of regulatory agencies  
2 out of the appropriation made in subsection (1) of this section.

3 **SECTION 7. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
4 shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
5 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
6 11, 2010, if adjournment sine die is on May 12, 2010); except that, if a  
7 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
8 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
9 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part shall not take effect  
10 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
11 November 2010 and shall take effect on the date of the official  
12 declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.