

**First Regular Session
Sixty-ninth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 13-0824.01 Jery Payne x2157

SENATE BILL 13-194

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Steadman,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Gerou,

Senate Committees

Business, Labor, & Technology
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING A REPEAL OF A TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR**
102 **LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS.**

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>.)

Currently a telephone assistance program gives a state subsidy to low-income individuals for local telephone services; it is funded by a monthly charge on telephone lines and eligible wireless handsets. The bill repeals the program and the monthly fee.

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.*

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** article 3.4 of
3 title 40.

4 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 40-3-106, **amend** (1)
5 (a) as follows:

6 **40-3-106. Advantages prohibited - graduated schedules -**
7 **consideration of household income and other factors - definitions.**

8 (1) (a) Except when operating under paragraph (c) or (d) of this
9 subsection (1), ~~or pursuant to article 3.4 of this title, no~~ A public utility,
10 as to rates, charges, service, or facilities, or in any other respect, shall NOT
11 make or grant any preference or advantage to ~~any~~ A corporation or person
12 or subject ~~any~~ A corporation or person to any prejudice or disadvantage.
13 ~~No~~ A public utility shall NOT establish or maintain any unreasonable
14 difference as to rates, charges, service, facilities, or ~~in any respect, either~~
15 between localities or ~~as between any~~ class of service. The commission ~~has~~
16 ~~the power to~~ MAY determine any question of fact arising under this
17 section.

18 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 40-15-503.5, **amend**
19 (1) (c) as follows:

20 **40-15-503.5. Financial assurance.** (1) The commission may
21 require regulated telecommunications service providers to post a bond or
22 provide other security as a condition of obtaining a certificate,
23 registration, or operating authority, whichever instrument or instruments
24 apply. In setting the amount of the bond or security, the commission may
25 consider the following criteria:

26 (c) The history of the provider's statutory payment obligations,

1 including those to the Colorado high cost support mechanism, ~~the~~
2 ~~Colorado telephone low-income assistance program~~, the Colorado
3 telephone relay system, and the Colorado fixed utility fund.

4 **SECTION 4. Wind up - satisfying obligations of low-income**
5 **telephone assistance fund.** Notwithstanding the repeal of article 3.4 of
6 title 40, the low-income telephone assistance fund continues until July 1,
7 2013, to satisfy remaining financial obligations of the fund. In winding
8 up the Colorado telephone low-income assistance program, the public
9 utilities commission may use the moneys in the fund to make
10 disbursement to the carriers, pay administrative expenses of the
11 department of human services, and offset costs of ending the program. On
12 July 1, 2013, the treasurer shall transfer the remainder of the moneys in
13 the fund to the general fund.

14 **SECTION 5. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
15 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
16 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.