

Committee on Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities

CS/CS/HB 1231 — Telecommunications

by State Affairs Committee; Energy and Utilities Subcommittee; and Reps. Horner and Williams, A. (CS/CS/SB 1524 by Commerce and Tourism Committee; Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities Committee; and Senator Simmons)

The bill completes retail deregulation of wireline telecommunication services by repealing statutes that: provide for price regulation, including rate caps; require companies to offer a flat-rate pricing option for basic local telecommunications service; and authorize the Public Service Commission to engage in consumer protection activities, including service quality regulation.

It maintains the role of the Public Service Commission in resolving wholesale disputes between service providers and consolidates these statutes.

It maintains Lifeline and Link-Up and creates authority for the Public Service Commission to inform customers of these programs.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2011.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 110-4