

CHAPTER 68.

[S. B. 51.]

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANIES—TELEPHONE.

AN ACT relating to public service companies; conferring on the Department of Public Service the power to require connections between telephone lines, to prescribe the routing of toll messages and conversations, and to establish joint rates and divisions thereof; amending section 73 of chapter 117, Laws of 1911, as amended by section 1 of chapter 118, Laws of 1923 (section 10409, Remington's Revised Statutes); and repealing section 2 of chapter 118, Laws of 1923 (section 10409-1, Remington's Revised Statutes).

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

Amendments. SECTION 1. Section 73 of chapter 117, Laws of 1911, as amended by section 1 of chapter 118, Laws of 1923 (section 10409, Remington's Revised Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

To expedite service.

Section 73. POWER OF DEPARTMENT TO REQUIRE CONNECTIONS, PRESCRIBE METHOD OF ROUTING, AND ESTABLISH JOINT RATES AND DIVISIONS THEREOF: In order to provide toll telephone service where no such service is available, or to promote the most expeditious handling or most direct routing of toll messages and conversations, or to prevent arbitrary or unreasonable practices which may result in the failure to utilize the toll facilities of all telephone companies equitably and effectively, the Department of Public Service may, on its own motion, or upon complaint, notwithstanding any contract or arrangement between telephone companies, investigate, ascertain and, after hearing, by order (1) require the construction and maintenance of suitable connections between telephone lines for the transfer of messages and conversations at a common point or points and, if the companies affected fail to agree on the proportion of the cost thereof to be borne by each such company, prescribe said propor-

Department may require connection.

Prescribe proportion of cost.

tion of cost to be borne by each; and/or (2) prescribe the routing of toll messages and conversations over such connections and the practices and regulations to be followed with respect to such routing; and/or (3) establish reasonable joint rates or charges by or over said lines and connections and just, reasonable and equitable divisions thereof as between the telephone companies participating therein.

Prescribe routing.

Establish joint rates.

This act shall not be construed as conferring on the Department of Public Service jurisdiction, supervision or control of the rates, service or facilities of any mutual, cooperative or farmer line company or association, except for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this section.

Exceptions.

SEC. 2. Section 2 of chapter 118, Laws of 1923 (section 10409-1, Remington's Revised Statutes), is hereby repealed.

Repealing.

Passed the Senate February 18, 1943.

Passed the House March 3, 1943.

Approved by the Governor March 9, 1943.