

CHAPTER 3

[Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 1625]

MANDATORY LOCAL MEASURED TELEPHONE SERVICE RATES—WUTC
POLICY—COMPREHENSIVE STUDY BY WUTC

AN ACT Relating to mandatory measured telephone service rates; amending section 80.04.130, chapter 14, Laws of 1961 and RCW 80.04.130; creating a new section; and declaring an emergency.

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

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. The Washington utilities and transportation commission shall conduct a comprehensive study to include, but not be limited to, the social and economic impact upon the residential, business, governmental, and nonprofit telephone customers by implementation of mandatory local measured telephone service rates.

The commission shall seek the cooperation of the joint select committee on telecommunications as well as representatives of the telephone industry, business interests, consumer groups, senior citizen groups, community service groups, nonprofit organizations, social service agencies, and all other interested parties in conducting the study.

The commission shall report to the appropriate committees of the house of representatives and the senate no later than November 1, 1984, with the findings of the study and recommendations regarding the implementation of mandatory local measured telephone service.

Sec. 2. Section 80.04.130, chapter 14, Laws of 1961 and RCW 80.04.130 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, whenever any public service company shall file with the commission any schedule, classification, rule or regulation, the effect of which is to change any rate, charge, rental or toll theretofore charged, the commission shall have power, either upon its own motion or upon complaint, upon notice, to enter upon a hearing concerning such proposed change and the reasonableness and justness thereof, and pending such hearing and the decision thereon the commission may suspend the operation of such rate, charge, rental or toll for a period not exceeding ten months from the time the same would otherwise go into effect, and after a full hearing the commission may make such order in reference thereto as would be provided in a hearing initiated after the same had become effective.

(2) At any hearing involving any change in any schedule, classification, rule or regulation the effect of which is to increase any rate, charge, rental or toll theretofore charged, the burden of proof to show that such increase is just and reasonable shall be upon the public service company.

(3) The implementation of mandatory local measured telephone service is a major policy change in available telephone service. The commission

shall not approve, prior to June 1, 1985, any filings which are under suspension as of the effective date of this 1984 act, which are awaiting an order by the commission, or which are filed on or after the effective date of this 1984 act if the filing involuntarily requires any telephone user to pay for all outgoing local telephone calls based on time and/or distance. As to any such filing, the requirements in subsection (1) of this section for the commission to act on that filing within ten months from the date the filing would otherwise go into effect are suspended under this subsection from the effective date of this 1984 act until June 1, 1985. This subsection shall not apply to any service such as land, marine, or air mobile service, or any like service that has traditionally been offered on a measured-service basis.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately.

Passed the House February 7, 1984.

Passed the Senate February 9, 1984.

Approved by the Governor February 16, 1984.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State February 16, 1984.

CHAPTER 4

[House Bill No. 1103]

NEWBORN INFANTS—HEALTH CARE SERVICE PLAN CONTRACTS OR HEALTH MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT COVERAGE—FURNISH NOTIFICATION WITHIN SIXTY DAYS OF BIRTH

AN ACT Relating to newborn insurance coverage; amending section 3, chapter 139, Laws of 1974 ex. sess. as amended by section 5, chapter 202, Laws of 1983 and RCW 48.44.212; amending section 12, chapter 202, Laws of 1983 and RCW 48.46.250; and declaring an emergency.

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

Sec. 1. Section 3, chapter 139, Laws of 1974 ex. sess. as amended by section 5, chapter 202, Laws of 1983 and RCW 48.44.212 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Any health care service plan contract under this chapter delivered or issued for delivery in this state more than one hundred twenty days after February 16, 1974, which provides coverage for dependent children of the insured or covered group member, shall provide coverage for newborn infants of the insured or covered group member from and after the moment of birth. Coverage provided in accord with this section shall include, but not be limited to, coverage for congenital anomalies of such infant children from the moment of birth.