

By: Ellington

To: Public Utilities

HOUSE BILL NO. 874  
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 77-3-509, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO REVISE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON  
3 TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE FOR THE DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED AND  
4 TO AUTHORIZE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION TO DESIGNATE A  
5 SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATION TO BE REPRESENTED ON THE COMMITTEE IF A  
6 SPECIFIED ORGANIZATION CEASES TO EXIST; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

8 SECTION 1. Section 77-3-509, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
9 amended as follows:

10 77-3-509. (1) On or before August 1, 1990, the Public  
11 Service Commission shall appoint an advisory committee to monitor  
12 the statewide telecommunications relay access service and advise  
13 and make recommendations to the Public Service Commission in  
14 pursuing services which meet the needs of the hearing or speech  
15 impaired and others similarly impaired in communicating with other  
16 users of telecommunications services.

17 (2) The advisory committee shall be composed of:

18 (a) One (1) deaf person recommended by the Mississippi  
19 Association of the Deaf;

20 (b) One (1) speech or hearing impaired person  
21 recommended by the Mississippi Association for Retired Persons;

22 (c) One (1) person recommended by the Coalition of  
23 Citizens with Disabilities;

24 (d) One (1) representative of telecommunications  
25 utilities chosen from a list of candidates provided by the  
26 Mississippi/Alabama Telephone Association;

27 (e) One (1) representative of the Mississippi Speech  
28 and Hearing Association;

29 (f) One (1) representative of the Veterans  
30 Administration;

31 (g) One (1) representative from Vocational  
32 Rehabilitation Deaf Services;

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34 (h) One (1) hearing impaired representative of the  
35 Mississippi School for the Deaf;

36 (i) Two (2) representatives chosen from the Public  
37 Service Commission's staff and employees;

38 (j) One (1) person appointed by the Speaker of the  
39 House of Representatives;

40 (k) One (1) person appointed by the Lieutenant Governor  
41 of the Senate;

42 (l) One (1) representative from the provider of the DPR  
43 service; and

44 (m) Three (3) "at large" individuals who have  
45 particular skills, knowledge, experience or ability but who are  
46 not necessarily speech or hearing impaired or otherwise affiliated  
47 with an organization serving the speech or hearing impaired.

48 The commission, in its discretion, may name a successor or  
49 similar organization to be represented on the committee if an  
50 organization or agency named in this subsection ceases to exist.

51 (3) The committee shall be appointed based on candidate  
52 names submitted by the recommending agency or organization. Each  
53 member of the advisory committee shall serve for a term of two (2)  
54 years. A member whose term has expired shall continue to serve  
55 until a qualified replacement is appointed. The members of the  
56 advisory committee shall serve without compensation but shall be  
57 entitled to reimbursement for travel and expenses incurred in the  
58 performance of their official duties and per diem, which shall be  
59 paid out of the trust fund on the same basis established for state  
60 employees \* \* \*.

61 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from

62 and after its passage.