

By: Ellington

To: Public Utilities

HOUSE BILL NO. 874

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 recommended by the Public Utilities
39 Committee of the House of Representatives;

40 (k) One (1) person recommended by the Public Utilities
41 Committee 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.