

HOUSE BILL NO. 202

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE SULLIVAN-LEONARD

Introduced: 3/29/17

Referred:

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to telecommunications services for certain disabled subscribers; and**
2 **providing for an effective date."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 42.05.296 is amended to read:

5 **Sec. 42.05.296. Telecommunications [TELEPHONE] services for certain**
6 **disabled [IMPAIRED] subscribers.** (a) The commission shall adopt regulations to
7 require **telecommunications** [TELEPHONE] utilities to provide service to deaf, hard
8 of hearing, and speech **disabled** [IMPAIRED] subscribers that permits the subscriber
9 to communicate by **one or more telecommunications devices** [TELEPHONE] with
10 persons of normal hearing and that makes available reasonable access of all phases of
11 public **telecommunications** [TELEPHONE] service to deaf, hard of hearing, and
12 speech **disabled telecommunications service** [IMPAIRED TELEPHONE]
13 subscribers. The regulations must provide for cost recovery through surcharges added
14 to the [BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE] rate **for each telecommunications service.**

1 The commission shall hold hearings to determine the most cost-effective method of
2 providing this service.

3 (b) A **telecommunications service** [TELEPHONE] subscriber is eligible for
4 the service required by (a) of this section if the subscriber is certified as deaf, hard of
5 hearing, or speech **disabled** [IMPAIRED] by a licensed physician, a speech-language
6 pathologist licensed under AS 08.11, an audiologist, or the Department of Health and
7 Social Services or if the subscriber is an organization representing the deaf, hard of
8 hearing, or speech **disabled** [IMPAIRED] as determined by the commission.

9 * **Sec. 2.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2017.