

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2004 SESSION

CHAPTER 151

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 56-235.5:1, relating to telecommunications services; local exchange telephone service competition policy.

[H 938]

Approved March 16, 2004

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 56-235.5:1 as follows:

§ 56-235.5:1. Local exchange telephone service competition policy.

The Commission, in resolving issues and cases concerning local exchange telephone service under the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-104), this title, or both, shall, consistent with federal and state laws, consider it in the public interest to, as appropriate, (i) treat all providers of local exchange telephone services in an equitable fashion and without undue discrimination and, to the greatest extent possible, apply the same rules to all providers of local exchange telephone services; (ii) promote competitive product offerings, investments, and innovations from all providers of local exchange telephone services in all areas of the Commonwealth; and (iii) reduce or eliminate any requirement to price retail and wholesale products and services at levels that do not permit providers of local exchange telephone services to recover their costs of those products and services.