

1995 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE BILL NO. 958

Offered January 25, 1994

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 56-235.6, relating to telephone companies; local exchange service within a metropolitan statistical area.

Patrons—Barlow; Senator: Holland, R.J.

Referred to Committee on Corporations, Insurance and Banking

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 56-235.6 as follows:

§ 56-235.6. Local exchange service within a metropolitan statistical area.

A. All telephone companies providing local exchange service within a metropolitan statistical area (MSA) as defined by the United States Office of Management and Budget shall provide MSA-wide contiguous service to all telephone subscribers within the MSA. The rate for such service shall be based on a flat monthly charge not to exceed ten percent of the highest-rate group as established by the Commission, notwithstanding the establishment of a lower rate if deemed appropriate by the Commission for any or all exchanges affected. There will be no additional measured, per minute, or other charge associated with the MSA-wide service.

B. The Commission may, at its option, test this plan for a period of not more than three years from date of implementation, provided the test area incorporates the Hampton Roads MSA which includes the Cities of Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach and Williamsburg; the Counties of Gloucester, Isle of Wight, James City, Mathews and York; and Currituck County, North Carolina.

2. The date of plan implementation shall coincide with the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company contiguous-calling plan for Hampton Roads, but such date shall occur not later than December 31, 1994. Upon termination of the test period, the Commission shall determine the feasibility of expanding the plan to other MSAs within the State.

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