



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

SB1557

Introduced 2/26/2021, by Sen. Celina Villanueva

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

220 ILCS 5/13-301.1 from Ch. 111 2/3, par. 13-301.1
220 ILCS 5/13-1200
220 ILCS 5/21-1105 new
220 ILCS 5/21-1601

Amends the Public Utilities Act. Replaces provisions relating to the Universal Telephone Service Assistance Program with provisions that require the Illinois Commerce Commission to establish a Universal Broadband Service Assistance Program. Provides that the Program shall provide for a reduction of monthly charges, a reduction of installation charges, devices used in connection to the Internet, or any other alternative assistance or program to increase accessibility to broadband service and broadband Internet access service that the Commission deems advisable subject to the availability of funds for the program. Makes other conforming changes. Creates a similar program for low-income residential customers of cable and video service providers. Extends the repeal of the Telecommunications and Cable and Video Competition Articles from December 31, 2021 to December 31, 2022. Effective immediately.

LRB102 14042 SPS 19394 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

HOUSING
AFFORDABILITY
IMPACT NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

1 AN ACT concerning regulation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Public Utilities Act is amended by changing
5 Section 13-301.1, 13-1200, and 21-1601 and by adding Section
6 21-1105 as follows:

7 (220 ILCS 5/13-301.1) (from Ch. 111 2/3, par. 13-301.1)

8 (Section scheduled to be repealed on December 31, 2021)

9 Sec. 13-301.1. Universal Broadband ~~Telephone~~ Service
10 Assistance Program.

11 (a) The Commission shall by rule or regulation establish a
12 Universal Broadband ~~Telephone~~ Service Assistance Program for
13 low-income ~~low-income~~ residential customers. The program shall
14 provide for a reduction of monthly ~~access-line~~ charges, a
15 reduction of installation ~~connection~~ charges, devices used in
16 connection to the Internet, or any other alternative
17 assistance or program to increase accessibility to broadband
18 ~~telephone~~ service and broadband Internet access service that
19 the Commission deems advisable subject to the availability of
20 funds for the program as provided in subsections (d) and (e).
21 The Commission shall establish eligibility requirements for
22 benefits under the program, provided those eligibility
23 requirements allow for eligibility verification by

1 participants' zip code.

2 (b) (Blank). ~~The Commission shall adopt rules providing~~
3 ~~for enhanced enrollment for eligible consumers to receive~~
4 ~~lifeline service. Enhanced enrollment may include, but is not~~
5 ~~limited to, joint marketing, joint application, or joint~~
6 ~~processing with the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program,~~
7 ~~the Medicaid Program, and the Food Stamp Program. The~~
8 ~~Department of Human Services, the Department of Healthcare and~~
9 ~~Family Services, and the Department of Commerce and Economic~~
10 ~~Opportunity, upon request of the Commission, shall assist in~~
11 ~~the adoption and implementation of those rules. The Commission~~
12 ~~and the Department of Human Services, the Department of~~
13 ~~Healthcare and Family Services, and the Department of Commerce~~
14 ~~and Economic Opportunity may enter into memoranda of~~
15 ~~understanding establishing the respective duties of the~~
16 ~~Commission and the Departments in relation to enhanced~~
17 ~~enrollment.~~

18 (c) (Blank). ~~In this Section:~~

19 ~~"Lifeline service" means a retail local service offering~~
20 ~~described by 47 CFR 54.401(a), as amended.~~

21 (d) The Commission shall require by rule or regulation
22 that each telecommunications carrier, wireless carrier, and
23 Interconnected VoIP service provider providing communication
24 ~~local exchange telecommunications~~ services notify its
25 customers that if the customer wishes to participate in the
26 funding of the Universal Broadband Telephone Service

1 Assistance Program he or she may do so by electing to
2 contribute, on a monthly basis, a fixed amount that will be
3 included in the customer's monthly bill. The customer may
4 cease contributing at any time upon providing notice to the
5 ~~telecommunications~~ carrier providing communications ~~local~~
6 ~~exchange telecommunications~~ services. The notice shall state
7 that any contribution made will not reduce the customer's bill
8 for communications ~~telecommunications~~ services. Failure to
9 remit the amount of increased payment will reduce the
10 contribution accordingly. The Commission shall specify the
11 monthly fixed amount or amounts that customers wishing to
12 contribute to the funding of the Universal Broadband Telephone
13 Service Assistance Program may choose from in making their
14 contributions. Every telecommunications carrier, wireless
15 carrier, and Interconnected VoIP service provider providing
16 communication ~~local exchange telecommunications~~ services shall
17 remit the amounts contributed in accordance with the terms of
18 the Universal Broadband Telephone Service Assistance Program.

19 (e) Amounts collected and remitted under subsection (d)
20 may, to the extent the Commission deems advisable, be used for
21 funding a program to be administered by the entity designated
22 by the Commission as administrator of the Universal Broadband
23 ~~Telephone~~ Service Assistance Program for educating and
24 assisting low-income residential customers with a transition
25 to Internet protocol-based networks and services. This entity
26 shall include telecommunications carriers, wireless carriers,

1 Interconnected VOIP carriers, cable and video providers, the
2 Illinois Attorney General, and consumer groups, such that the
3 entity is balanced between service providers and consumer
4 groups. This program may include, but need not be limited to,
5 measures designed to notify and educate residential customers
6 regarding the availability of alternative voice services with
7 access to 9-1-1, access to and use of broadband Internet
8 access service, and pricing options.

9 (Source: P.A. 100-20, eff. 7-1-17.)

10 (220 ILCS 5/13-1200)

11 (Section scheduled to be repealed on December 31, 2021)

12 Sec. 13-1200. Repealer. This Article is repealed December
13 31, 2022 ~~2021~~.

14 (Source: P.A. 100-20, eff. 7-1-17; 101-639, eff. 6-12-20.)

15 (220 ILCS 5/21-1105 new)

16 Sec. 21-1105. Universal Broadband Service Assistance
17 Program.

18 (a) The Commission shall by rule establish a Universal
19 Broadband Service Assistance Program for low-income
20 residential customers of cable and video service providers.
21 The program shall provide for a reduction of monthly charges,
22 a reduction of installation charges, devices used in
23 connection to the Internet, or any other alternative
24 assistance or program to increase accessibility to broadband

1 service and broadband Internet access service that the
2 Commission deems advisable subject to the availability of
3 funds for the program as provided in subsections (b) and (c).
4 The Commission shall establish eligibility requirements for
5 benefits under the program, provided those eligibility
6 requirements allow for eligibility verification by
7 participants' zip code.

8 (b) The Commission shall require by rule that each cable
9 and video service provider notify its customers that if the
10 customer wishes to participate in the funding of the Universal
11 Broadband Service Assistance Program he or she may do so by
12 electing to contribute, on a monthly basis, a fixed amount
13 that will be included in the customer's monthly bill. The
14 customer may cease contributing at any time upon providing
15 notice to the cable and video service provider. The notice
16 shall state that any contribution made will not reduce the
17 customer's bill for broadband services. Failure to remit the
18 amount of increased payment will reduce the contribution
19 accordingly. The Commission shall specify the monthly fixed
20 amount or amounts that customers wishing to contribute to the
21 funding of the Universal Broadband Service Assistance Program
22 may choose from in making their contributions. Every cable and
23 video service provider providing service shall remit the
24 amounts contributed in accordance with the terms of the
25 Universal Broadband Service Assistance Program.

26 (c) Amounts collected and remitted under subsection (b)

1 may, to the extent the Commission deems advisable, be used for
2 funding a program to be administered by the entity designated
3 by the Commission as administrator of the Universal Broadband
4 Service Assistance Program for educating and assisting
5 low-income residential customers with a transition to Internet
6 protocol-based networks and services. This entity shall
7 include telecommunications carriers, wireless carriers,
8 Interconnected VOIP carriers, cable and video service
9 providers, the Illinois Attorney General, and consumer groups,
10 such that the entity is balanced between service providers and
11 consumer groups. This program may include, but need not be
12 limited to, measures designed to notify and educate
13 residential customers regarding the availability of
14 alternative voice services with access to 9-1-1, access to and
15 use of broadband Internet access service, and pricing options.

16 (220 ILCS 5/21-1601)

17 Sec. 21-1601. Repealer. Sections 21-101 through 21-1501 of
18 this Article are repealed December 31, 2022 ~~2021~~.

19 (Source: P.A. 100-20, eff. 7-1-17; 101-639, eff. 6-12-20.)

20 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
21 becoming law.