

CHAPTER 1018

H.B. No. 2511

AN ACT

relating to the provision of telecommunications services to state government.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 87B, Public Utility Regulatory Act (Article 1446c, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), as added by Chapter 407, Acts of the 69th Legislature, Regular Session, 1985, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 87B. A telecommunications utility providing dedicated line long distance service (TEXAN) to the state on *August 31, 1987* [~~January 1, 1985~~], shall continue to have this type of service available to the state on a *month-to-month contract basis until September 1, 1988* [~~under a contract with the state until September 1, 1987~~]. The contract *will become effective on September 1, 1987, and* shall be under terms and conditions negotiated by the state and the utility in accordance with the amounts appropriated by the General Appropriations Act for this purpose. *The State Purchasing and General Services Commission shall perform all actions necessary to insure that one or more contracts for telecommunications services as provided in Article 10 of the State Purchasing and General Services Act (Article 601b, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes) (TEXAN II) are awarded pursuant to the requirements of the State Purchasing and General Services Act (Article 601b, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes) by October 15, 1987, and that TEXAN II is operational no later than August 31, 1988. Those funds appropriated by the General Appropriations Act for extending the existing TEXAN contract which are not expended in fiscal year 1988 shall be transferred to the State Purchasing and General Services Commission for the sole purpose of offsetting the expenses associated with the administration of the TEXAN II network* [~~This section expires September 1, 1987~~]. If, during the period of time this section is in effect, any supplemental or other telecommunications service is required by the state, it may be acquired from vendors other than the utility or utilities providing TEXAN or TEXAN II service.

SECTION 2. The Public Utility Regulatory Act (Article 1446c, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes) is amended by adding Section 48A to read as follows:

Sec. 48A. A telecommunications utility providing any service to the state, including service to an agency in any branch of state government, may not charge a fee, penalty, interest, or other charge for delinquent payment of a bill for that service.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 1987.

SECTION 4. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed by the House on May 14, 1987, by a non-record vote. Passed by the Senate on May 28, 1987, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Approved June 19, 1987.

Effective Sept. 1, 1987.