

Section 8-201

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1998 Volume and 2005 Supplement).

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Public Utility Companies

8-201.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) "Eligible subscriber" means an individual who is certified to [the] A local telephone company [in whose service area the individual is applying for service] by the Department of Human Resources as receiving:

(I) assistance under Article 88A, §§ 44A through 53 of the Code[, receiving];

(II) ASSISTANCE FROM THE ELECTRIC UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROGRAM UNDER § 7-512.1 OF THIS ARTICLE;

(III) ASSISTANCE FROM THE MARYLAND ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UNDER ARTICLE 41, TITLE 6, SUBTITLE 4 OF THE CODE;

(IV) State-funded public assistance benefits[,]; or [receiving]

(V) Supplemental Security Income under Title XVI of the federal Social Security Act.

(3) "Telephone lifeline service" means [a] local telephone [service] SERVICES provided to eligible subscribers [that,] at a discount[, provides an individual residential local exchange dial access line plus the first 30 residential local untimed messages per billing month] IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.

(b) [A] AT THE DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION, A local telephone company with more than 10,000 subscribers shall offer telephone lifeline service to eligible subscribers subject to the following conditions:

(1) no other local voice telephone service may be provided to the dwelling unit of the eligible subscriber applying for telephone lifeline service; AND

[(2) except for tone signaling capability, premium services, including foreign zone or foreign exchange service, are not provided to the eligible subscriber; and

(3)] (2) an inside wiring maintenance plan is not provided to the eligible subscriber.

[(c) (1) The rate that a telephone company charges for telephone lifeline service shall be 50% of the lowest applicable and approved federal and State tariff rates for an individual residential local exchange dial access line and for residential