

Assembly by a certain date; and generally relating to telephone companies and telephone lifeline service.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Public Utility Companies

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