

(2) An eligible subscriber applying for service may be denied service if the eligible subscriber:

(i) has an outstanding unpaid net telephone debt of \$100 or more for prior telephone service; and

(ii) has not established a reasonable payment plan to satisfy the debt.

(3) An eligible subscriber may not be denied service if the eligible subscriber has an outstanding unpaid net telephone debt of less than \$100 for prior telephone service.

(H) (1) TO THE EXTENT ALLOWED BY FEDERAL LAW, THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES SHALL PROVIDE TO LOCAL TELEPHONE COMPANIES THAT OFFER TELEPHONE LIFELINE SERVICE MONTHLY ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO A FILE CONTAINING A LIST OF ALL INDIVIDUALS WHO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE FROM ANY OF THE PROGRAMS LISTED IN SUBSECTION (A)(2) OF THIS SECTION.

(2) TO OBTAIN ACCESS TO THE FILE, A LOCAL TELEPHONE COMPANY MUST ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES THAT GOVERNS ACCESS TO USE, CONFIDENTIALITY, AND RETENTION OF THE FILE.

(3) THE GRANT OF ACCESS TO THE FILE SATISFIES THE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT OF SUBSECTION (A)(2) OF THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Public Service Commission shall study the implications of expanding the definition of "eligible subscriber" under § 8-201(a)(2) of the Public Utility Companies Article as enacted by this Act to include individuals who:

(1) do not receive the specified assistance or benefits to be eligible for a telephone lifeline service; and

(2) reside in subsidized housing where residential local exchange access line service, residential local untimed messages, and other associated telephone services are included as part of the individuals' rent payments.

(b) On or before December 31, 2006, the Public Service Commission shall report its findings and recommendations, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Economic Matters Committee.

SECTION 2-3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2006.

May 26, 2006

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
President of the Senate