

(a) (1) In this section and Section 26 of this article, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

(2) "Telephone lifeline service" means a local telephone service provided to eligible subscribers which provides at a discount an individual residential local exchange dial access line plus the first 30 residential local untimed messages per billing month.

(3) "Eligible subscriber" means an individual who is certified to the local telephone company in whose service area the individual is applying for service by the Department of Human Resources as receiving benefits under Article 88A, §§ 44A THROUGH 58 OR § 65A of the Code, ["general public assistance",] or supplemental security income under Title XVI of the federal Social Security Act.

(b) 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, no premium services, including foreign zone or foreign exchange service, may be provided to the eligible subscriber. No inside wiring maintenance plan may be provided to the eligible subscriber.

(c) (1) The rate charged by a telephone company for telephone lifeline service shall be 50 percent of the lowest applicable and approved federal and State tariff rates for an individual residential local exchange dial access line and for residential local untimed messages per month, less any waivers of federal tariff provisions applicable to eligible customers permitted by federal statute, order, rule or regulation, plus all applicable federal, State, and local taxes and fees.

(2) When an eligible subscriber elects to subscribe to tone signaling capability, the rate charged shall be 50 percent of the applicable and approved federal and State tariff rates for this service, plus all applicable federal, State, and local taxes. In the case of an eligible subscriber, repairs to inside wiring will be charged at 50 percent of the applicable filed tariff.

(3) When initial installation or connection of service is required, the rate charged shall be 50 percent of the applicable and approved federal and State tariff charges for the installation and connection of residential dial access service to 1 terminating location within the eligible subscriber's dwelling unit, plus all applicable federal, State, and local taxes. Any