

1, 1997 that provides coverage to a small employer (as that term is defined in Section 2 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1993 and revised and reenacted under Chapter \_\_\_ (H.B. 11) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1997), and any renewal of such plan is not a renewal of a health benefit plan providing coverage to a small employer for any purpose under Title 15, Subtitle 12 of the Insurance Article.

SECTION ~~6~~ 9. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except for ~~Section 3~~ Sections ~~3 and 8~~ of this Act, this Act shall take effect ~~July~~ June 1, 1997.

SECTION ~~7~~ 10. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That ~~Section 3~~ Sections ~~3 and 8~~ of this Act shall take effect October 1, 1997.

Approved April 29, 1997.

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**CHAPTER 135**

**(Senate Bill 100)**

AN ACT concerning

**Telephone Lifeline Service – Eligibility**

FOR the purpose of providing that certain recipients of certain public assistance benefits are eligible for telephone lifeline services; eliminating obsolete references to statutes; and generally relating to the telephone lifeline service.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article 78 – Public Service Commission Law  
Section 26A(a)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1995 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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

**Article 78 – Public Service Commission Law**

26A.

(a) (1) In this section and § 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