

(5) Appoint appropriate staff to assist the Board in carrying out its activities under this subtitle.

(b) The Board and the Governor's Office for Handicapped Individuals shall:

- (1) Assist the Department in the development of regulations;
- (2) Develop and implement educational outreach programs;
- (3) Review and monitor the program; and
- (4) Advise the Department on unusual hardship cases.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Article 41, Section 6-507 of the Code, effective July 1, 1991 the Public Service Commission shall assess a surcharge against subscribers to switched local exchange service to be used to pay the costs of maintaining and operating the dual party telephone relay program required by this Act. The amount of the surcharge shall be determined by the Commission and shall be applied to all current bills rendered for switched local access service in the State. The money collected through the surcharge shall be deposited with the Comptroller in the Universal Service Trust Fund that is established under Article 41, Section 6-507 of the Code. ~~By December 31, 1993 the Public Service Commission shall include the costs of maintaining and operating the dual party telephone relay program in the base rates of each telephone company that provides switched local exchange access service in the State and On and after June 30, 1993, the affected telephone companies shall cease collecting the surcharge.~~

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, by July 1, 1992, the Public Service Commission shall complete and submit to the General Assembly a full evaluation of dual party telephone relay service as such service has been instituted in other states in the United States to comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (P.L. 101-336) or with a substantially equivalent state law to determine and assess:

(1) How telephone rates in those states have been impacted by the full implementation of dual party telephone relay service;

(2) Whether, and if so how, the cost to subscribers differs in those states, depending on whether a surcharge is imposed or the cost of the service is included in the base rate of the telephone company that provides switched local exchange access service;

(3) Public reaction, in any manner that it can be identified and quantified: (a) to the methods of recovering the costs of dual party telephone relay service; and (b) to any other aspects of full implementation of dual party telephone relay service;

(4) The number of users of dual party telephone relay service, including information, if available, concerning the frequency of use by specific classes of subscribers;

(5) Whether, and to what extent, the utilization of dual party telephone relay service has increased in the State since its full implementation; and

(6) Such other information as the Commission deems appropriate.