



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Committee Statement
LB 560

Hearing Date: January 30, 2007

Committee On: Transportation and Telecommunications

Introducer(s): (Fischer, 43)

Title: Provide for regulation of communications providers

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

Advanced to General File

Advanced to General File with Amendments

X Indefinitely Postponed

Vote Results:

7	Yes	Senators Mines, Pedersen, Hudkins, Schimek, Fischer, Aguilar and Stuthman
1	No	Senator Louden
	Present, not voting	
	Absent	

Proponents:

Dusty Vaughan, Introducer
Jerry Vap
Eric Carstenson

Representing:

Senator Deb Fischer, District #43
Nebraska Public Service Commission
Nebraska Telecommunications Association

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 560 requires all communications providers who are not certified by the Public Service Commission to file limited contact information with the Commission and pay a one-time \$50 registration fee.

The bill amends § 86-125 by substituting “all communication providers” for “a wireless carrier.” Currently wireless carriers register with the Commission. This change will require all communication providers to register, regardless of their communication service type. Any current providers will have to register by January 1, 2008, and any new providers offering services after August 1, 2007 will have to register before they can offer services.

Communication providers are required to provide to the Commission a contact person regarding: the Nebraska Universal Service Fund, the Relay System (deaf and hard of hearing), wireless E911, and consumer complaints. In addition, communication providers that offer transmission services (broadband providers) need to provide a contact person with managerial responsibility for Nebraska operations.

The bill outlines the definition of a communication provider. They include: any entity that uses telephone or VoIP to provide information, whether bundled or offered separately, which provides voice communications AND the voice component is the primary function. A communication provider is also an entity that provides any service used for the transmission of information that connects to a network that permits the user to engage in electronic communications, including but not limited to, service provided directly to the public or such classes of users as to be effectively available directly to the public.

Section 2 changes the time period from 60 days to 90 days as the length that the Commission has after the close of a hearing to set access charges.

The act has an operative date of August 1, 2007, and there is an emergency clause provision.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

Senator Deb Fischer, Chairperson