

1 Public Utilities Commission

2

3 Adopted Permanent Rules Relating to Telephone Assistance Plan

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5 Rules as Adopted

6 7817.0100 DEFINITIONS.

7 [For text of subps 1 to 12, see M.R.]

8 Subp. 12a. **Service order record change charge.** "Service
9 order record change charge" means the fee that a telephone
10 company charges to a subscriber for making a change in the
11 subscriber's billing record for local service.

12 [For text of subp 13, see M.R.]

13 Subp. 13a. **TAP enrollment charge.** "TAP enrollment charge"
14 means the administrative cost to a telephone company of
15 enrolling each new participant in the telephone assistance
16 program as determined under part 7817.0300, subpart 5.

17 [For text of subps 14 and 14a, see M.R.]

18 Subp. 15. **Telephone assistance plan or TAP.** "Telephone
19 assistance plan" or "TAP" means the plan required by Minnesota
20 Statutes, sections 237.69 to 237.72, and set out in this chapter.

21 [For text of subp 16, see M.R.]

22 7817.0300 FUNDING.

23 [For text of subps 1 and 2, see M.R.]

24 Subp. 3. **Use of surcharge revenues and fund.** A telephone
25 company shall remit, under Minnesota Statutes, section 403.11,
26 surcharge revenues to the Department of Administration for
27 deposit in the telephone assistance fund. The commission shall
28 use the money in the telephone assistance fund to:

29 A. reimburse the telephone assistance credits
30 extended by a telephone company within 60 days of the deadline
31 for filing the telephone company's report under part 7817.0900
32 or the date the report is filed, whichever occurs later;

33 B. reimburse the administrative expenses of the
34 Department of Human Services not to exceed the amount specified
35 in Minnesota Statutes, section 237.701;

1 C. reimburse the administrative expenses of the
2 commission not to exceed the amount specified in Minnesota
3 Statutes, section 237.701; and

4 D. reimburse a telephone company's administrative
5 expenses in accordance with subpart 4.

6 Subp. 4. Reimbursing telephone company expenses. The
7 commission shall reimburse telephone company expenses as
8 provided in items A to E.

9 A. The commission shall reimburse only with money in
10 the telephone assistance fund.

11 B. The commission shall not reimburse the expenses of
12 collecting the surcharge.

13 C. The commission shall not reimburse expenses under
14 this subpart unless the telephone company has filed a report
15 that complies with part 7817.0900. The commission shall
16 reimburse the telephone company within 60 days after the
17 deadline for filing its report under part 7817.0900 or the date
18 the report is filed, whichever occurs later.

19 D. A telephone company with five or more new TAP
20 participants enrolled during the reporting period for which
21 reimbursement is sought must be reimbursed for expenses actually
22 incurred and claimed up to an amount no greater than the number
23 of new participants enrolled during the reporting period times
24 one of the following:

25 (1) the company's tariffed service order record
26 change charge; or

27 (2) the company's tariffed TAP enrollment charge
28 determined under subpart 5.

29 E. A telephone company with fewer than five new TAP
30 participants enrolled during the reporting period for which
31 reimbursement is sought must be reimbursed for expenses actually
32 incurred and claimed up to an amount no greater than five times
33 one of the following:

34 (1) the company's tariffed service order record
35 change charge; or

36 (2) the company's tariffed TAP enrollment charge

1 determined under subpart 5.

2 Subp. 5. TAP enrollment charge. A telephone company may
3 petition the commission to establish a TAP enrollment charge for
4 the company, which may differ from the company's service order
5 record change charge. The TAP enrollment charge must be
6 determined according to items A and B.

7 A. A company's petition to establish a TAP enrollment
8 charge must include financial and cost-study information
9 adequate to support the company's proposed TAP enrollment
10 charge. The commission may accept, modify, or reject the
11 company's petition.

12 B. A TAP enrollment charge must be based exclusively
13 on the cost of one or more of the following company activities
14 directly related to administering TAP:

15 (1) responding to customer inquiries regarding
16 TAP;

17 (2) mailing TAP applications to customers;

18 (3) changing manual or computerized customer
19 records and billing systems to reflect the addition or removal
20 of a customer's TAP credit;

21 (4) sending annual notice of TAP to all
22 subscribers;

23 (5) notifying the Department of Human Services of
24 customers added to or removed from TAP;

25 (6) removing customers from TAP when declared
26 ineligible by the Department of Human Services;

27 (7) storing TAP applications;

28 (8) remitting surcharge revenues to the
29 Department of Administration as required by part 7817.0300,
30 subpart 3; and

31 (9) reporting to the Public Utilities Commission
32 and Department of Public Service under part 7817.0900, subparts
33 2 to 4.

34 Subp. 6. Absence of TAP enrollment service charge. If a
35 telephone company does not have a tariffed TAP enrollment charge
36 when claiming reimbursement for TAP-related expenses, the

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- 1 maximum reimbursement allowed must be based on the company's
- 2 service order record change charge as provided in subpart 4,
- 3 item D, subitem (1); or item E, subitem (1).