

Fifty-sixth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1122

Introduced by

Natural Resources Committee

(At the request of the Department of Human Services)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 54-44.8-01, 54-44.8-03, and 54-44.8-06 of the
2 North Dakota Century Code, relating to administration of the program for telecommunications
3 services for communications impaired persons.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-44.8-01 of the 1997 Supplement to the North
6 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **54-44.8-01. Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise
8 requires:

- 9 1. "Administrator" means the individual employed by the division to oversee
10 administration of the program.
- 11 2. "Commission" means the public service commission.
- 12 3. "Communications impaired" means the condition of an individual who is deaf,
13 hearing impaired, or speech impaired, or mobility impaired so as to be unable to
14 use a telephone readily purchased from a retail store.
- 15 4. "Disadvantaged" means residing in a household that has a median income not
16 more than the applicable median income in this state, except the term includes
17 residing in a household that has a median income not more than one hundred fifty
18 percent of the applicable median income in this state if the resident is deaf.
- 19 5. "Division" means the information services division of the office of management and
20 budget.
- 21 ~~5.~~ 6. "Local exchange company" means a telecommunications company that provides
22 telephone access lines to members of the general public who are its customers.
- 23 ~~6.~~ 7. "Program" means the program established under section 54-44.8-03.

1 their ability to obtain such equipment. The ~~vocational rehabilitation division~~
2 department shall determine eligibility and may provide the specialized
3 telecommunications equipment to individuals determined eligible within the limits of
4 funding made available to the ~~vocational rehabilitation division~~ department through
5 gifts and grants received under section 54-44.8-06 and from funding made
6 available by the information services division from the surcharge collected
7 pursuant to section 54-44.8-08, which are hereby appropriated.

8 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-44.8-06 of the 1997 Supplement to the North
9 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

10 **54-44.8-06. Gifts and grants.** The ~~vocational rehabilitation division~~ department of
11 human services may accept contributions and gifts and may apply for and accept grants, in
12 money or otherwise, to the program. Monetary contributions, gifts, and grants must be
13 deposited in the state treasury to be credited to the department of human services operating
14 account.