

Introduced by

Senators Tollefson, Fischer, Mutch

Representatives Bellew, Lloyd

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 49-02-01, 49-02-01.1, and 49-02-03 of the
2 North Dakota Century Code, relating to jurisdiction of the public service commission over
3 certain rural electric cooperatives and telecommunications companies.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 49-02-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **49-02-01. General jurisdiction of the public service commission over public**
8 **utilities.** The general jurisdiction of the commission ~~shall extend~~ extends to and ~~include~~
9 includes:

- 10 1. Contract and common carriers engaged in the transportation of persons and
11 property, excluding air carriers.
- 12 2. Telecommunications companies engaged in the furnishing of telecommunications
13 services as provided for in chapter 49-21.
- 14 3. Pipeline utilities engaged in the transportation of gas, oil, coal, and water.
- 15 4. Electric utilities engaged in the generation and distribution of light, heat, or power.
- 16 5. Rural electric cooperatives that have two thousand five hundred or more members
17 served.
- 18 6. Gas utilities engaged in the distribution of natural, synthetic, or artificial gas.
- 19 ~~6.~~ 7. All heating utilities engaged in the distribution of heat.
- 20 ~~7.~~ 8. Warehouse companies engaged in the marketing, storage, or handling of
21 agricultural products.
- 22 ~~8.~~ 9. All other public utilities engaged in business in this state or in any county, city,
23 township, or other political subdivision of the state.

1 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 49-02-01.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3 **49-02-01.1. Jurisdiction of commission limited as to certain utilities.** Nothing in
4 this chapter or in chapter 49-21 authorizes the commission to make any order affecting rates,
5 contracts, services rendered, adequacy, or sufficiency of facilities, or the rules or regulations of
6 any public utility owned and operated by the state or by any city, county, township, or other
7 political subdivision of the state or any public utility, that is not operated for profit, that is
8 operated as a nonprofit, cooperative, or mutual telecommunications company or is a
9 telecommunications company having fewer than ~~eight~~ two thousand five hundred local
10 exchange subscribers or is a rural electric cooperative having fewer than two thousand five
11 hundred members served. However, any telecommunications ~~utility company that is operated~~
12 ~~as a nonprofit, cooperative, or mutual telecommunications company~~ or has fewer than ~~eight~~ two
13 thousand five hundred local exchange subscribers is subject to sections 49-21-01.4,
14 49-21-02.4, 49-21-08, 49-21-23, 49-21-24, and 49-21-25, subsections 6 through 14 of section
15 49-21-01.7, and to sections 49-21-01.2, 49-21-01.3, 49-21-06, 49-21-07, 49-21-09, and
16 49-21-10, regarding rates, terms, and conditions of access services or connection between
17 facilities and transfer of telecommunications between two or more telecommunications
18 companies. Nothing in this section limits the authority of the commission under chapter 49-03.1
19 or sections 49-04-05 and 49-04-06.

20 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 49-02-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is
21 amended and reenacted as follows:

22 **49-02-03. Power of public service commission to establish rates.** The commission
23 shall supervise the rates of all public utilities, telecommunications companies that have two
24 thousand five hundred or more local exchange subscribers, and rural electric cooperatives that
25 have two thousand five hundred or more members served. ~~It shall have the power~~ The
26 commission, after notice and hearing, ~~to~~ may originate, establish, modify, adjust, promulgate,
27 and enforce tariffs, rates, joint rates, and charges of all public utilities, telecommunications
28 companies that have two thousand five hundred or more local exchange subscribers, and rural
29 electric cooperatives that have two thousand five hundred or more members served. Whenever
30 the commission, after hearing, ~~shall find~~ finds any existing rates, tariffs, joint rates, or schedules
31 unjust, unreasonable, insufficient, unjustly discriminatory, or otherwise in violation of ~~any of the~~

- 1 ~~provisions of~~ this title, the commission by order shall fix reasonable rates, joint rates, charges,
- 2 or schedules to be followed in the future in lieu of those found to be unjust, unreasonable,
- 3 insufficient, unjustly discriminatory, or otherwise in violation of any provision of law.