

1-1 By: Seliger S.B. No. 1476  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 8, 2017; March 20, 2017, read  
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Business & Commerce;  
 1-4 April 5, 2017, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 7,  
 1-5 Nays 2; April 5, 2017, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9		X		
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14		X		
1-15	X			
1-16	X			

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to eligibility for support from the universal service  
 1-20 fund.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. Section 56.023, Utilities Code, is amended by  
 1-23 amending Subsection (p) and adding Subsections (r) and (s) to read  
 1-24 as follows:

1-25 (p) If an incumbent local exchange company or cooperative is  
 1-26 ineligible for support under a plan established under Section  
 1-27 56.021(1) for services in an exchange, a plan established under  
 1-28 Section 56.021(1) may not provide support to any other  
 1-29 telecommunications providers for services in that exchange, except  
 1-30 that an eligible telecommunications provider that is receiving  
 1-31 support under Section 56.021(1)(A) in that exchange shall continue  
 1-32 to receive such support until the commission determines that the  
 1-33 support should be eliminated under Subsection (r) ~~[the later of~~  
 1-34 ~~December 31, 2017, or the second anniversary of the date the~~  
 1-35 ~~incumbent local exchange provider or cooperative ceases receiving~~  
 1-36 ~~support in that exchange]~~. Until the commission eliminates the  
 1-37 support under Subsection (r), the [The] support received by the  
 1-38 eligible telecommunications provider [during that period] shall be  
 1-39 at the same monthly per line support level in effect for that  
 1-40 exchange as of the date the incumbent local exchange provider or  
 1-41 cooperative ceases receiving funding in that exchange.

1-42 (r) If the number of access lines served by competitive  
 1-43 eligible telecommunications providers receiving support in an  
 1-44 exchange described by Subsection (p) declines by at least 50  
 1-45 percent from the number of lines that were served by those providers  
 1-46 in that exchange on December 31, 2016, the commission shall review  
 1-47 the per line support amount for that exchange at least once every  
 1-48 three years to determine whether continuing the support is in the  
 1-49 public interest. The commission by rule shall establish the  
 1-50 criteria to determine whether the support should be eliminated.  
 1-51 The first review under this subsection for an exchange must be  
 1-52 completed not later than the end of the year following the year in  
 1-53 which the number of access lines first declines by at least 50  
 1-54 percent.

1-55 (s) The support for eligible telecommunications providers  
 1-56 under Subsections (p) and (r) expires December 31, 2023.

1-57 SECTION 2. Section 56.023(q), Utilities Code, is repealed.

1-58 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
 1-59 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
 1-60 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
 1-61 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

2-1 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

2-2 \* \* \* \* \*