

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska) Application No. NUSF-2
Public Service Commission, on)
its own Motion, seeking to) ORDER INITIATING DOCKET
establish guidelines for) AND SEEKING COMMENT
administration of the Nebraska)
Lifeline Program.) Entered: March 16, 1999

BY THE COMMISSION:

The Commission opens this docket to establish guidelines for the administration of the Nebraska Lifeline Program. Proceedings in this docket will be conducted in a legislative format. As such, this docket shall not constitute a contested case as defined by Neb. Rev. Stat. section 84-901, and therefore, the ex parte provisions outlined in that section shall not apply.

F I N D I N G S A N D C O N C L U S I O N S

Neb. Rev. Stat. section 86-1410(3) requires that "Any person receiving low-income support from the Nebraska Lifeline Program shall be exempt from the payment of any surcharge established by the Commission pursuant to the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Act." The Commission seeks comment on whether the statute exempts only services provided over the single line that receives lifeline support under the Federal Communications Guidelines or exempts all surcharges on telecommunications services to which the lifeline recipient subscribes, including services provided over additional lines, and cellular and paging services.

Irrespective of whether the exemption applies to a single line or multiple lines of service, the Commission tentatively finds that any local service provider must ask a customer applying for local service whether or not the person has qualified for the Nebraska Lifeline Program. If applicants indicate that they have qualified for the program, the local service provider must verify with the Commission that the applicants are indeed qualified. In addition, in the event the applicant requests additional services from another provider, such as toll services, the local service provider must notify the other providers that the applicant has qualified for the Nebraska Lifeline Program. Further, if an existing customer changes providers for a service such as toll, the local provider must notify at that point the new provider that the customer is qualified for the Nebraska Lifeline Program.

Comments on the above-outlined issues shall be filed with this Commission on or before March 30, 1999.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that a copy of this Order be served upon each of the parties of record in Docket No. C-1628.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that interested parties file comments on or before March 30, 1999, regarding the issues outlined above.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 16th day of March, 1999.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION:

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director