

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1991

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HOUSE BILL 1046

Short Title: Study Pay Phone Cut-off.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Bowen.

Referred to: Public Utilities.

April 22, 1991

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE UTILITIES COMMISSION TO OVERSEE A TWO-
2 YEAR STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY OF LIMITING DURATION OF COIN-
3 OPERATED TELEPHONE CALLS.
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5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 Section 1. The State Utilities Commission shall authorize one or more
7 telephone companies, including at least one of the two largest companies operating in
8 the State, to conduct a pilot program within the State in accordance with this act. The
9 program shall be conducted individually by each of the telephone companies
10 participating in the program, and shall be designed to evaluate the cost-effectiveness,
11 public benefit, and feasibility of implementing a limitation on the duration of local
12 telephone calls placed at coin-operated telephones. Participating companies shall alter a
13 certain number of coin-operated telephones so that the telephones automatically
14 terminate the connection on a local call after a period of between seven and ten minutes.
15 The number of telephones to be altered and the number of minutes after which the cut-
16 off occurs shall be determined by the participating companies. The number of
17 telephones to be altered shall be determined by identifying the number necessary to
18 reliably evaluate the cost-effectiveness and usefulness of the program. Participating
19 telephone companies shall provide to the State Utilities Commission upon request all
20 information necessary to evaluate the program.

21 Sec. 2. The length of the pilot program provided for in Section 1 of this act
22 shall be two years, and the program shall be completed no later than December 31,
23 1993.

1 Sec. 3. The State Utilities Commission shall report the results and
2 conclusions from the program to the Joint Legislative Utility Review Committee no
3 later than March 1, 1994.

4 Sec. 4. This act is effective upon ratification.