

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Atkinson, Edwards, Girod, Starr, Beyer

Nays: 0

Exc.: Burdick

Prepared By: Richard Berger, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows the Department of Revenue and the Public Utility Commission to share information received while administering the telecommunications tax funding the 9-1-1 emergency reporting system and surcharge funding the Residential Service Protection Fund. Alters the definition of ‘telecommunications relay services’ to include a broader array of technologies than the voice and teletype system noted in current statute.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for consistency between Public Utility Commission statutes and Department of Revenue statutes
- Need to match Federal Communications Commission definition of telecommunications relay service.

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Removes language that would have included ‘video relay services’ on the list of examples of ‘telecommunications relay services.’

BACKGROUND: Telecommunications relay service (TRS) is a telephone service that allows persons with hearing or speech disabilities to place and receive telephone calls. TRS has changed since being introduced in the late 1980s to include additional services as mandated by the federal government. The Public Utility Commission states that Senate Bill 145 A will “mirror the definition of TRS as used by the Federal Communications Commission rules.”