

SENATE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 30

1 WHEREAS, competition in the voice communications industry is  
2 developing rapidly and is widespread in the State of Missouri;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Missouri law governing the telecommunications  
5 industry must evolve to meet the needs of Missouri consumers; and

6 WHEREAS, consumer choice in voice communications is  
7 available through the traditional wireline, wireless, cable, and  
8 interconnected voice over Internet protocol industries; and

9 WHEREAS, the methodology by which carriers are compensated  
10 for the use of their network is, by its nature, complex,  
11 detailed, and inter-related to numerous other economic forces;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the need to make equitable changes in the inter-  
14 carrier compensation regime will require a comprehensive,  
15 holistic, and deliberate approach to reform; and

16 WHEREAS, due to the complex nature of inter-carrier  
17 compensation, comprehensive study and discussion is required; and

18 WHEREAS, pricing of voice telecommunications services is  
19 important to promote competition for the long-term benefit of  
20 consumers; and

21 WHEREAS, a forum for review and discussion between these

1 very competitive industries will aid in addressing the concerns  
2 of both the industry and consumers:

3 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the House of  
4 Representatives of the Ninety-fourth General Assembly, Second  
5 Regular Session, the Senate concurring therein, that to ensure  
6 that thoughtful and necessary changes to the regulation of voice  
7 communications in Missouri and the need to protect Missouri  
8 consumers and provide them with more communications choices, the  
9 General Assembly must endeavor to comprehensively study further  
10 the matters detailed herein; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the House of  
12 Representatives of the Ninety-fourth General Assembly, Second  
13 Regular Session, the Senate concurring therein, hereby establish  
14 a Joint Interim Committee on Voice Communications Regulation to  
15 be composed of ten members, five of which shall be from the House  
16 of Representatives with three appointed by the Speaker of the  
17 House and two appointed by the Minority Floor Leader of the  
18 House, and five members shall be from the Senate with three  
19 appointed by the President Pro Tem of the Senate and two  
20 appointed by the Minority Floor Leader of the Senate; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Joint Interim Committee is  
22 authorized to function during the legislative interim between the  
23 Second Regular Session of the Ninety-fourth General Assembly  
24 through January 15, 2009, of the First Regular Session of the  
25 Ninety-fifth General Assembly to study the following:

26 (1) The need to make changes to the inter-carrier  
27 compensation system wherein voice communications providers  
28 exchange traffic on other provider's networks; and

1           (2) The issue of whether market-based pricing exists in the  
2 voice telecommunications industry, and any recommended action to  
3 be taken by the General Assembly, if any; and

4       \_\_\_\_\_(3) Such other matters as the Joint Interim Committee may  
5 deem necessary in order to determine the proper course of future  
6 legislative and budgetary action regarding these issues; and

7           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Joint Interim Committee  
8 shall prepare a final report, together with its recommendations  
9 for any legislative action deemed necessary for submission to the  
10 General Assembly by January 15, 2009; and

11          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Joint Interim Committee may  
12 solicit input and information necessary to fulfill its  
13 obligations, including but not limited to soliciting input and  
14 information from any state department or agency the Joint Interim  
15 Committee deems relevant, consumer advocates, political  
16 subdivisions of this State, and the general public; and

17          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the staffs of House Research,  
18 the Joint Committee on Legislative Research, and Senate Research  
19 shall provide such legal, research, clerical, technical, and bill  
20 drafting services as the Joint Interim Committee may require in  
21 the performance of its duties; and

22          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the actual and necessary  
23 expenses of the Joint Interim Committee, its members, and any  
24 staff assigned to the Joint Interim Committee incurred by the  
25 Joint Interim Committee shall be paid by the Joint Contingent  
26 Fund.