

HB 495 -- Local Exchange Telecommunications Carriers

Sponsor: Parson

This bill changes the laws regarding local exchange telecommunications carriers. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Relieves a local exchange carrier from its obligation to provide basic local telecommunications service to a piece of property if the owner or developer of the property:

(a) Allows an alternative service provider to install, based on the condition of exclusion of the local exchange carrier, facilities or equipment to provide local telecommunications service;

(b) Accepts or agrees to accept incentives or rewards from an alternative service provider that are contingent upon the provision of any or all local telecommunications services by alternative service providers to the exclusion of the local exchange carrier; or

(c) Collects from the occupants or residents of the property charges for the provision of any local telecommunications service provided by an alternative service provider including collection through rent, fees, or dues;

(2) Allows a local exchange carrier that is not automatically relieved of its obligation to seek a waiver of its obligation from the Missouri Public Service Commission if other local telephone or Internet access is available on the property; and

(3) Specifies the requirements and procedures for re-establishing the obligation of local telecommunications service by a local exchange carrier if the conditions that terminated the obligation cease.