

AGENDA

UT-131239 USF Rulemaking

Workshop

July 15, 2013

- I. Introduction and General Comments**
- II. Rulemaking Process and Schedule**
- III. Open Discussion of Key Provisions – ESS HB 1971 (Part II)**
 - a. Section 203**
 - i. (3)(a) Communications Provider Eligibility:**
 - 1. Incumbent carrier,**
 - 2. Wireless carrier.**
 - ii. (3)(b) Risk of rate instability, service interruptions or cessations absent a distribution to the provider to maintain rates reasonably close to benchmark,**
 - iii. (3)(c) Any other requirements established by the Commission pertaining to communications services (including basic telecommunications services).**
 - iv. (4)(a) Establishment of local rate benchmark (Commission determines reasonable amount customers should pay for basic residential service).**
 - v. (4)(b) Affirmatively consent to continue to provide communications services.**
 - vi. (6) Commission must periodically review the accounts and records of any communications provider receiving distributions to ensure compliance.**
 - vii. (7) Commission must establish an advisory board consisting of representatives from different types of communications providers and consumers to advise on rules and policies for operation of the program.**

b. Section 204

- i. (1)(a) Commission must adopt rules for operation of the fund, eligibility, identification of any reports or data to be filed (including how provider used the funds and infrastructure).**
- ii. (1)(b) operation of the universal services account.**
- iii. (1)(c) establishment of a benchmark.**
- iv. (1)(d) Readoption, repeal or changes to RCW 80.36.610 and 80.36.620.**

c. Section 205

- i. Commission may impose penalties for failure to make or delays in reporting and Commission may recover amounts determined to have been improperly distributed under Section 203.**

d. Section 206

- i. Commission may delegate authority to the commission secretary or other staff to resolve disputes and make other administrative decisions and supervision of the program.**

e. Section 207

- i. Rules must be adopted prior to July 1, 2014**
- ii. Commission may initiate efforts prior to July 1, 2014 to implement act in timely manner.**

f. Section 211

- i. Universal communications services program terminates on June 30, 2019.**

g. Section 212

i. Commission must report to legislature:

- 1. Whether funding levels have been adequate.**
- 2. Future impacts on small telecommunications companies of eliminating funding.**
- 3. Impacts on customer rates from current funding and future impact.**
- 4. Impacts on line and service delivery investments when funding is terminated.**