

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4018

To identify the current levels of savings and costs to telecommunications carriers as a result of the enactment of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, to require accurate billing by telecommunications carriers with respect to the costs and fees resulting from the enactment of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 1998

Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. BALDACCI, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mrs. MORELLA, Ms. FURSE, and Mr. DEFazio) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

A BILL

To identify the current levels of savings and costs to telecommunications carriers as a result of the enactment of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, to require accurate billing by telecommunications carriers with respect to the costs and fees resulting from the enactment of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. STUDY OF COSTS AND SAVINGS TO TELE-**
2 **COMMUNICATIONS CARRIERS.**

3 (a) **STUDY.**—The Comptroller General shall conduct
4 a study of the following:

5 (1) the total cost savings to that telecommuni-
6 cations carriers have obtained as a result of the en-
7 actment of the Telecommunications Act of 1996;

8 (2) the extent to which such cost savings have
9 been passed through to the customers of such tele-
10 communications carriers; and

11 (3) any additional costs which telecommuni-
12 cations carriers have incurred as a result of the en-
13 actment of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

14 (b) **SUBMISSION OF REPORT.**—The Comptroller Gen-
15 eral shall submit to the Committee on Commerce of the
16 House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
17 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report
18 on the results of the study required by subsection (a) with-
19 in 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

20 (c) **REVIEW OF RECORDS.**—

21 (1) **AUTHORITY.**—For purposes of the inves-
22 tigation under subsection (a), the Comptroller Gen-
23 eral may obtain from any telecommunications carrier
24 any record of the carrier that is relevant to the in-
25 vestigation.

1 (2) USE.—The Comptroller General may use
2 records obtained under this subsection only for pur-
3 poses of the investigation.

4 **SEC. 3. REQUIREMENTS FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS**
5 **CARRIERS IMPOSING CERTAIN FEES FOR**
6 **SERVICES.**

7 (a) REQUIREMENTS.—Any telecommunications car-
8 rier that includes on any of the bills sent to its customers
9 a charge described in subsection (b) shall—

10 (1) specify in the bill imposing such charge any
11 reduction in charges or fees allocable to all classes
12 of customers (including customers of residential
13 basic service, customers of other residential services,
14 small business customers, and other business cus-
15 tomers) by reason of any regulatory action of the
16 Federal Government; and

17 (2) submit to the Federal Communications
18 Commission the reports required to be submitted by
19 the carrier to the Securities and Exchange Commis-
20 sion under sections 13(a) and 15(d) of the Securities
21 and Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a),
22 78o(d)).

23 (b) COVERED CHARGES.—Subsection (a) applies in
24 the case of the following charges:

1 (1) Any specific charge included after June 30,
2 1997, if the imposition of the charge is attributed to
3 a regulatory action of the Federal Government.

4 (2) Any specific charge included before that
5 date if the description of the charge is changed after
6 that date to attribute the imposition of the charge
7 to a regulatory action of the Federal Government.

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