

State Fiscal Note for Bill
Number: 2012-H-7446

Date of State Budget Office Approval:

Date Requested: Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Date Due: Saturday, April 07, 2012

<i>Impact on Expenditures</i>		<i>Impact on Revenues</i>	
FY 2012	\$0	FY 2012	\$0
FY 2013	\$80,000	FY 2013	\$80,000
FY 2014	\$80,000	FY 2014	\$80,000

Explanation by State Budget Office:

This Act would require the transfer of \$80,000 annually, beginning in FY 2013, to the Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, from the proceeds of the surcharge collected by telecommunications service providers from their subscribers for emergency communication and public telecommunication access accommodations within the State of Rhode Island. The current surcharge, collected from residential and business telecommunications service providers (land-line only), is \$0.09 (nine cents) entitled "Relay Fund" on the end users' bills from their respective service providers. This \$0.09 monthly charge covers the costs of the administration and operation of the Relay Fund, including the annual amount of \$10,000 transmitted to the Department of Human Services for adaptive telephone equipment loan program and \$40,000 for the telephone access system for newspaper program.

Comments on Sources of Funds:

The funding transferred to DHS for the adaptive telephone equipment loan program and the telephone newspaper access system is received as general revenues and these programs receive general revenue appropriations. It is assumed that this new program under CDHH would be accounted for in the same way. Thus, revenues listed above would be received as general revenues and a general revenue appropriation would be made to the CDHH in a like amount.

Summary of Facts and Assumptions:

1. This Act would require an annual transfer of \$80,000 to the RI Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for the Emergency Communication and Public Telecommunication Access Fund, which would finance the costs for emergency communication and public telecommunication access accommodations for the deaf and hard of hearing population in the state.

2. The Public Utilities Commission estimates that to raise this additional annual revenue, the PUC would need to conduct a hearing to increase the current Relay Fund by assessing an additional \$0.015 monthly subscriber charge, or an increase of 16.67% over the current charge. Given that there are between 450,000 to 470,000 subscribers who have centrex and/or traditional landlines that are subject to the surcharge, this would generate between \$81,000 and \$84,600 annually.

3. The Act provides for an effective date of "upon passage", but it is assumed that the

Saturday, May 05, 2012

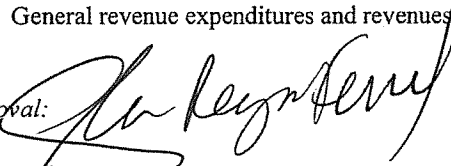
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additional surcharge would not be in place until FY 2013.

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

General revenue expenditures and revenues would be increased by \$80,000 annually.

Fiscal Advisor's Approval:



Signature:

