

State of Arkansas  
91st General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2017

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1593

By: Representative Collins

By: Senator Rapert

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY REFORM ACT OF 2013; TO  
MODIFY CERTAIN PROVISIONS CONCERNING ELIGIBLE  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIERS TO COMPLY WITH RECENT  
DEVELOPMENTS IN FEDERAL LAW; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY;  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY REFORM ACT  
OF 2013 TO COMPLY WITH RECENT  
DEVELOPMENTS IN FEDERAL LAW; AND TO  
DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 23-17-405(c), concerning eligible telecommunications carriers under the Telecommunications Regulatory Reform Act of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

(c)(1) In exchanges, ~~or~~ wire centers, census blocks, or other areas where the commission has designated more than one (1) eligible telecommunications carrier, the commission shall permit a local exchange carrier to relinquish its designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier in any such area, consistent with 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(4), upon a finding that at least one (1) eligible telecommunications carrier ~~will continue to serve~~ serves the area.



(2) In an area in which a local exchange carrier ~~is not an~~ has relinquished its eligible telecommunications carrier designation, the local exchange carrier may:

(A) Continue providing services, including universal services; and

(B)(i) Discontinue providing services, including universal services.

(ii) If a local exchange carrier discontinues providing a basic local exchange service under subdivision (c)(2)(B)(i) of this section, the carrier shall notify affected customers in writing at least ninety (90) days before discontinuing the service.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that federal law requires a change in the Telecommunications Regulatory Reform Act of 2013; that the regulation of eligible telecommunications carriers under state law must be updated in order to comply with federal law; and that this act is necessary to avoid a potential conflict between state and federal law concerning regulation of eligible telecommunications carriers. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on July 1, 2017.

APPROVED: 03/08/2017