DIGEST

HB 582 Original   2017 Regular Session   Smith

Abstract: Decreases the telecommunications tax from $.05 to $.04 but expands the services upon which the tax is levied to include wireless handset devices and prepaid wireless services.

Present law provides for a monthly $.05 tax on each residential and business customer telephone access line of the local exchange companies operating in La. Such fee is deposited in the Telecommunications for the Deaf Fund and used to establish, administer, and promote a statewide program to provide accessibility services and assistive technology for persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech impaired.

Proposed law retains present law but decreases the monthly tax from $.05 to $.04 and expands the services upon which the tax is levied to include wireless handset devices. Requires the tax to be levied per month and to be assessed per line for each wireless access line and per telephone number for each wireless handset device.

Proposed law exempts wireless devices used only for data purposes and prepaid wireless devices from the levy of the tax.

Present law authorizes companies collecting and remitting the tax to retain a portion, not to exceed 2%, from the amount collected and remitted as compensation for collecting the tax if the remittance of the monies to the Dept. of Revenue is made timely.

Proposed law retains present law but increases the amount allowed to be retained from no more than 2% to no more than 3%.

Proposed law provides for a 4% charge on the retail sale of prepaid wireless services that is to be deposited in the Telecommunications for the Deaf Fund.

(Amends R.S. 47:1061(A))