

**HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS**

**HB 582**

**2017 Regular Session**

**Smith**

TAX: Provides relative to the telecommunications tax for the deaf

**Synopsis of Senate Amendments**

1. Increase the tax from \$.04 to four and one-half cents per line for each wireline access line and per telephone number for wireless handset devices.
2. Add requirement that the monies in the Telecommunications for the Deaf Fund be used to provide for captioning and American sign language services to be utilized by the legislature.

**Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate**

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. The 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 four and one-half cents 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%.

Present law provides for the establishment of the "Telecommunications for the Deaf Fund", hereinafter "fund", as a special treasury fund. Monies in the fund shall be used solely to establish, administer, and promote a statewide program to provide accessibility services and assistive technology for persons who are deaf, deaf/blind, hard of hearing, speech impaired, or others with similar disabilities or impairments in the amounts appropriated by the legislature to the La. Commission for the Deaf.

Proposed law retains present law but expands the uses of the monies in the fund to include captioning and American sign language services to be utilized at the legislature.

Effective Oct. 1, 2017.

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