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## DIGEST

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Patrick Williams

HB No. 238

**Abstract:** Decreases the monthly telecommunication tax from \$.05 to \$.02 but expands the services upon which the tax is levied to include wireless handset devices.

Present law provides a monthly \$.05 tax on each residential and business customer telephone access line of the local exchange companies operating in La. Requires the proceeds of the tax to be 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 \$.02 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 wireline 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%.

Effective Jan. 1, 2014.

(Amends R.S. 47:1061(A)(1), (2), and (3))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Ways and Means to the original bill.

1. Reduced the amount of the tax from \$.04 to \$.02 and removes long distance and pager devices from the levy of the tax.
2. Required the monthly tax to be assessed per line for each wireline access line and per telephone number for each wireless handset device.
3. Exempted wireless devices used only for data purposes and prepaid wireless devices from the levy of the tax.
4. Increased the amount of monies authorized to be retained by companies as compensation for collection and remittance of the tax from no more than 2% to no more than 3%.
5. Adds an effective date of Jan. 1, 2014.