

**237.491 COMBINED PER NUMBER FEE.**

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) The definitions in this subdivision apply to this section.

(b) "911 emergency and public safety communications program" means the program governed by chapter 403.

(c) "Minnesota telephone number" means a ten-digit telephone number being used to connect to the public switched telephone network and starting with area code 218, 320, 507, 612, 651, 763, or 952, or any subsequent area code assigned to this state.

(d) "Service provider" means a provider doing business in this state who provides real time, two-way voice service with a Minnesota telephone number.

(e) "Telecommunications access Minnesota program" means the program governed by sections 237.50 to 237.55.

(f) "Telephone assistance program" means the program governed by sections 237.69 to 237.711.

Subd. 2. **Per number fee.** (a) By January 15, 2006, the commissioner of commerce shall report to the legislature and to the senate Committee on Jobs, Energy and Community Development and the house of representatives Committee on Regulated Industries, recommendations for the amount of and method for assessing a fee that would apply to each service provider based upon the number of Minnesota telephone numbers in use by current customers of the service provider. The fee would be set at a level calculated to generate only the amount of revenue necessary to fund:

(1) the telephone assistance program and the telecommunications access Minnesota program at the levels established by the commission under sections 237.52, subdivision 2, and 237.70; and

(2) the 911 emergency and public safety communications program at the levels appropriated by law to the commissioner of public safety and the commissioner of finance for purposes of sections 403.11, 403.113, 403.27, 403.30, and 403.31 for each fiscal year.

(b) The recommendations must include any changes to Minnesota Statutes necessary to establish the procedures whereby each service provider, to the extent allowed under federal law, would collect and remit the fee proceeds to the commissioner of revenue. The commissioner of revenue would allocate the fee proceeds to the three funding areas in paragraph (a) and credit the allocations to the appropriate accounts.

(c) The recommendations must be designed to allow the combined per telephone number fee to be collected beginning July 1, 2006. The per access line fee used to collect revenues to

support the TAP, TAM, and 911 programs remains in effect until the statutory changes necessary to implement the per telephone number fee have been enacted into law and taken effect.

(d) As part of the process of developing the recommendations and preparing the report to the legislature required under paragraph (a), the commissioner of commerce must, at a minimum, consult regularly with the Departments of Public Safety, Finance, and Administration, the Public Utilities Commission, service providers, the chairs and ranking minority members of the senate and house of representatives committees, subcommittees, and divisions having jurisdiction over telecommunications and public safety, and other affected parties.

**History:** 2005 c 136 art 10 s 1; 1Sp2005 c 1 art 4 s 57