

CASE NO: TW-97-333

Office of the Public Counsel

P.O. Box 7800
Jefferson City, MO 65102

General Counsel

Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

W.R. England, Sondra B. Morgan

Brydon, Swearngen & England
312 E. Capitol Ave., P.O. Box 456
Jefferson City, MO 5102-0456

James C. Stroo, Associate General Counsel

GTE Telephone Operations
1000 GTE Dr., P.O. Box 307
Wentzville, MO 63385

Craig S. Johnson

Andereck, Evans, Milne, Peace & Baumhoer
305 E. McCarty St., Third Floor
Hawthorn Center, P.O. Box 1438
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Linda K. Gardner

United Telephone Company of Missouri
5454 W. 110th St.
Overland Park, KS 66211

Julie Grimaldi, Julie Bowles

Sprint Communications Company
8140 Ward Parkway
Kansas City, MO 64114

Paul G. Lane, Diana J. Harter

Leo J. Bub, Anthony K. Conroy
Southwestern Bell Telephone Company
One Bell Center, Room 3520
St. Louis, MO 63101

Stephen Morris

MCI Telecommunications Corporation
701 Brazos, Suite 600
Austin, Texas 78701

Paul H. Gardner

Goller, Gardner & Feather
Professional Corporation, 131 E. High St.
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Mark W. Comley

Newman, Comley & Ruth
205 E. Capitol Ave., P.O. Box 537
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0537

Paul S. DeFord

Lathrop & Gage, L.C.
2345 Grand Blvd.
Kansas City, MO 64108

Larry R. Lovett

AT&T
101 W. McCarty, Suite 216
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Mark Harper

United Telephone Company of Missouri
5454 W. 110th St.
Overland Park, KS 66211

Doug Trabaris, Madelon Kuchera

Elizabeth Howland
Teleport Communications Group
233 S. Wacker Dr., Suite 2100
Chicago, IL 60606

Michael J. Ensrud

Competitive Telephone Association of Missouri
6950 W. 56th St.
Mission, KS 66202

Ronald Molteni

Assistant Attorney General
221 W. High St., P.O. Box 899
Jefferson City, 65102

12.

Notice of *Ex Parte* Contact

TO: Records Department: All Parties in Case No. TW-97-333
All Commissioners

FROM: Chairman Sheila Lumpe

DATE: January 26, 1998



On **January 26, 1998**, I received the attached document from **Imogene Gromer**. The Commission is currently considering the same issues as to those set out in this document in Case No. **TW-97-333**. The Commission is bound by the same *ex parte* rule as a court of law.

Pursuant to 4 CSR 240-4.020(4) it is improper for any person to attempt to sway the judgement of the Commission by undertaking, directly or indirectly, outside the hearing process, to bring pressure or influence to bear upon the Commission, or the Regulatory Law Judge assigned to the proceeding.

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cc: Executive Director
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
General Counsel



Commissioners

SHEILA LUMPE
Chair

HAROLD CRUMPTON

CONNIE MURRAY

M. DIANNE DRAINER
Vice Chair

Missouri Public Service Commission

POST OFFICE BOX 360
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102
573-751-3234
573-751-1847 (Fax Number)
573-526-5695 (TT)
<http://www.ecodev.state.mo.us/psc/>

CECIL I. WRIGHT
Executive Director

WESS A. HENDERSON
Director, Utility Operations

GORDON L. PERSINGER
Director, Advisory & Public Affairs

ROBERT SCHALLENBERG
Director, Utility Services

DONNA M. KOLILIS
Director, Administration

DALE HARDY ROBERTS
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel

January 26, 1998

Imogene Gromer
502 S. Walnut
Bernie, MO 63822

Dear Ms. Gromer:

The Commission appreciates knowing your opinion.

This case is an open case, so I cannot comment on it. Your letter will be shared with all the Commissioners and be placed in the official file so all the parties can view it.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Sheila Lumpe
Sheila Lumpe

cc: Commissioners

January 15, 1998

Chairman Sheila Lumpe
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

RE: Elimination of COS to Bernie subscribers

Dear Madam Chairman,

I was recently informed, along with the other customers of the BPS telephone system in Bernie Missouri, that the PSC has ruled to eliminate our Community Optional Service because it is "scarcely used". This notice is enclosed for your information. I would like to know how this program became the discussion of the PSC and who petitioned for it's elimination.

This ruling is disturbing for several reasons. One of which is the fact that we have no exchange in Bernie, there is no other community that we can call without incurring a toll charge. We are a very small community and many of us work and conduct business in the surrounding communities, of which Dexter is the largest. My husband and I are retired senior citizens and it is imperative that we control our living expenses due to our fixed incomes and the program's elimination is going to create a great hardship on us.

Additionally, I find it hard to believe that the Commission could make the determination that this is a "scarcely used" program without even consulting the subscribers of the program. The first indication that there was any consideration on the Commission's part regarding this program was when we were informed that it was being eliminated. I was not contacted as to my use of the program and neither was anyone else in the community to whom I have talked, and this has been a lively topic recently. It seems that the Commission would have consulted us regarding the possible elimination of the program since we are the group that will be mostly effected. I find it disturbing that we were informed only after the Commission had ruled on the issue and were not allowed to be party to any research or investigations as to the viability of the program.

I want to go on record to state that I strongly protest the elimination of the COS program to Bernie subscribers. As a small community, it is many times a struggle for us to receive quality service and we have few options as to the vendors offering their services to us. This COS program is very beneficial to Bernie subscribers, both private and business. The elimination of the program will create a great hardship on us as individuals and also to our business community, which in turn will adversely effect the individuals in the community.

As indicated below, I am sending a copy of this correspondence to the Office of Public Counsel. I ask that you reconsider your ruling.

Sincerely,

Imogene Gromer

Imogene Gromer
502 S. Walnut
Bernie, MO 63822

Enc.

copy: Martha Hogerty
Office of Public Counsel
Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 7800
Jefferson City, MO 65105

" CUSTOMER NOTICE "

On October 17, 1997, the Missouri Public Service Commission issued an order to eliminate community optional service (COS). As you know this service allows the Bernie subscribers to make unlimited calls to the Dexter, Bloomfield and Essex area for a flat monthly rate. This two way plan also allows the Dexter customer to place unlimited calls to the Bernie customer subscribed to COS. BPS filed testimony requesting that COS be left as it is today, however the Mo PSC ruled that the "scarcely used extra-exchange calling program (COS) should cease to exist after March 31, 1998".

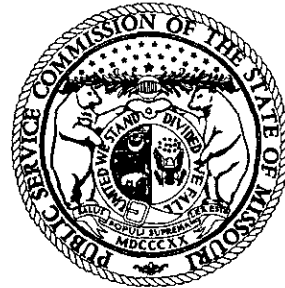
If you are interested in contacting the commission regarding this decision, you may do so by writing to the Missouri Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, MO 65102. You may also reach them by phone by calling 1-800-392-4211.

Notice of *Ex Parte* Contact

TO: Records Department: All Parties in Case No. TW-97-333
All Commissioners

FROM: Chairman Sheila Lumpe

DATE: January 26, 1998



On **January 20, 1998**, I received the attached document from **Representative Daniel J. Hegeman**. The Commission is currently considering the same issues as to those set out in this document in Case No. **TW-97-333**. The Commission is bound by the same *ex parte* rule as a court of law.

Pursuant to 4 CSR 240-4.020(4) it is improper for any person to attempt to sway the judgement of the Commission by undertaking, directly or indirectly, outside the hearing process, to bring pressure or influence to bear upon the Commission, or the Regulatory Law Judge assigned to the proceeding.

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cc: Executive Director
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
General Counsel



Commissioners

SHEILA LUMPE
Chair

HAROLD CRUMPTON

CONNIE MURRAY

M. DIANNE DRAINER
Vice Chair

Missouri Public Service Commission

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CECIL I. WRIGHT
Executive Director

WESS A. HENDERSON
Director, Utility Operations

GORDON L. PERSINGER
Director, Advisory & Public Affairs

ROBERT SCHALLENBERG
Director, Utility Services

DONNA M. KOLILIS
Director, Administration

DALE HARDY ROBERTS
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel

January 26, 1998

The Honorable Daniel J. Hegeman
State Capitol
Room 101D
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dan
Dear Representative Hegeman:

The Commission appreciates knowing your opinion.

This case is an open case, so I cannot comment on it. Your letter will be shared with all the Commissioners and be placed in the official file so all the parties can view it.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

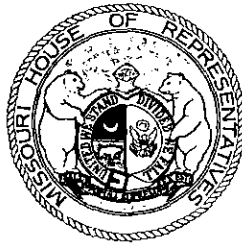
Sheila Lumpe

cc: Commissioners

*We put the petitions in the file & made copies for the
OPE. Thanks for being nice to our staff.*

DANIEL J. HEGEMAN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 5

State Capitol - Room 101D
Jefferson City, MO 65101-6806
TELE: (573) 751-0246
FAX: (573) 526-7740



**MISSOURI
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

January 20, 1998

DISTRICT ADDRESS
18739 County Road 294
Cosby, MO 64436
(816) 662-2645

RECEIVED

JAN 20 1998

CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

Sheila Lumpe, Chairman
Missouri Public Service Commission
Truman Building
Room 530
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Sheila:

Enclosed are petitions signed by residents in District 5 requesting that the Public Service Commission reconsider its position on the elimination of the Community Optional Service plan on March 31, 1998.

We ask that the present service be continued until a viable alternative is offered. The COS is the life line for many of my constituents who live in rural areas where few services are available. It is necessary for them to transact business in the surrounding areas, and without a plan comparable to COS, it will become very expensive, and in some cases, prohibitive to continue their current accessibility to needed services.

Sheila, I thank you and the other Commissioners for your attention and assistance in this matter, and please feel free to contact me if I can provide more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel J. Hegeman".
Daniel J. Hegeman
State Representative

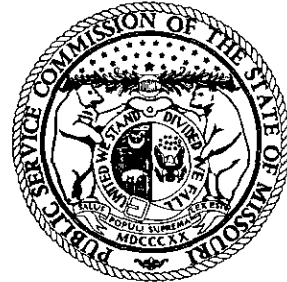
DJH/ns

Notice of *Ex Parte* Contact

TO: Records Department: All Parties in Case No. TW-97-333
All Commissioners

FROM: Chairman Sheila Lumpe

DATE: January 26, 1998



On **January 23, 1998**, I received the attached document from **Sharon Dale (via Rep. Randall Relford)**. The Commission is currently considering the same issues as to those set out in this document in Case No. **TW-97-333**. The Commission is bound by the same *ex parte* rule as a court of law.

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cc: Executive Director
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
General Counsel



Commissioners

SHEILA LUMPE
Chair

HAROLD CRUMPTON

CONNIE MURRAY

M. DIANNE DRAINER
Vice Chair

Missouri Public Service Commission

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CECIL I. WRIGHT
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ROBERT SCHALLENBERG
Director, Utility Services

DONNA M. KOLILIS
Director, Administration

DALE HARDY ROBERTS
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel

January 26, 1998

Sharon Dale
8166 NW 304th Street
Gower, MO 64454

Dear Ms. Gower:

The Commission appreciates knowing your opinion.

This case is an open case, so I cannot comment on it. Your letter will be shared with all the Commissioners and be placed in the official file so all the parties can view it.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sheila Lumpe".

Sheila Lumpe

cc: Commissioners

Date sent: Thu, 15 Jan 1998 21:59:58 -0600
From: shdale <shdale@ibm.net>
To: rrelford@services.state.mo.us
Copies to: sjohns01@services.state.mo.us
Subject: [Fwd: Re: Community Option Service]

RECEIVED

JAN 23 1998

CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

The Honorable Rep. Relford and Sen. Johnson:

7 I am forwarding a copy of the letter that I recently sent to the Public
e Service Commission (to which there has been no reply to date).

I forward this to you after reading in the Clinton County Leader, published in Plattsburg, that you have scheduled a meeting in Savannah, MO, on Jan. 22, regarding my dilemma on the discontinuation of the Community Option Service.

The newspaper article does not make it clear if this meeting will be open to the public. Can you answer this question for me? Will there be a chance for anyone to speak at this meeting? I would sincerely like to "voice my opinion". If the meeting is open to the public I would like to at least attend.

THANK YOU so very much for your recognition of the plight of so many of the rural folks in Clinton and surrounding communities!!!! It took so long to get the Community Option Service out here in Gower, and I really would like for it to continue, you will see only a few of my reasons if you will please take the time to read the forwarded letter.

Most sincerely,

Sharon Dale
8166 NW 304th Street
Gower MO 64454
shdale@ibm.net
816-424-3730

P.S.: If the letter I sent to the PSC is not forwarded with this note to you, please let me know and I will send it to you via USPS.

MISSOURI
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65101-6806

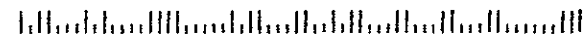
Randall R. Rife

Rm 530

Sheila Lumpe, Chair
Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 7800
Jefferson City, MO 65102



651027800

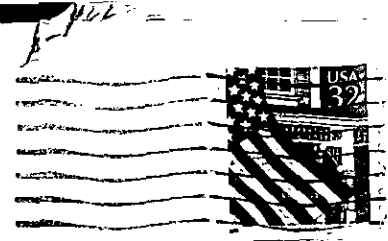


MISSOURI
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65101-6806

Randall L. Ruff

*Rm.
530*

Sheila Lumpe, Chair
Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 7800
Jefferson City, MO 65102



65102x7800

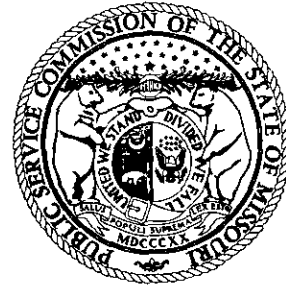


Notice of *Ex Parte* Contact

TO: Records Department: All Parties in Case No. TW-97-333
All Commissioners

FROM: Chairman Sheila Lumpe

DATE: January 26, 1998



On **January 22, 1998**, I received the attached document from **Mrs. Farris Calton**. The Commission is currently considering the same issues as to those set out in this document in Case No. **TW-97-333**. The Commission is bound by the same *ex parte* rule as a court of law.

Pursuant to 4 CSR 240-4.020(4) it is improper for any person to attempt to sway the judgement of the Commission by undertaking, directly or indirectly, outside the hearing process, to bring pressure or influence to bear upon the Commission, or the Regulatory Law Judge assigned to the proceeding.

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cc: Executive Director
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
General Counsel



Commissioners

SHEILA LUMPE
Chair

HAROLD CRUMPTON

CONNIE MURRAY

M. DIANNE DRAINER
Vice Chair

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DONNA M. KOLILIS
Director, Administration

DALE HARDY ROBERTS
Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel

January 26, 1998

Mrs. Farris Calton
20039 Crabapple Rd.
Lebanon, MO 65536-6071

Dear Ms. Calton:

The Commission appreciates knowing your opinion.

This case is an open case, so I cannot comment on it. Your letter will be shared with all the Commissioners and be placed in the official file so all the parties can view it.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sheila Lumpe".

Sheila Lumpe

cc: Commissioners

Mo Public Service Commission
Sheila Lumpe
Jefferson City Mo.

RECEIVED

JAN 22 1998

CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

Dear Sheila:

I am asking you to reconsider your decision on the C.O.S. ruling of discontinuing it.

If you as a Commissioner would really search this out I'm sure you could see what you are doing wrong.

The Rural Areas are always hurt the worst on any kind of service.

The Senior Citizens on a fixed income cannot absorb any more increases for the services that are so necessary for our well being.

The telephone is often the only outlet for the elderly & home bound.

I would suggest you take a survey of the areas concerned and to be careful of the franchise that you give to the telephone Co.

In our case the P.S.C. granted a franchise to the Con-tel phone Co to within 6 1/2 mi of Lebanon. So we could not be served by United Telephone of Lebanon. Our work was in Lebanon the Children in Lebanon School, Dr., Hospital, Fire dept all out of Lebanon. Please reconsider your Decision

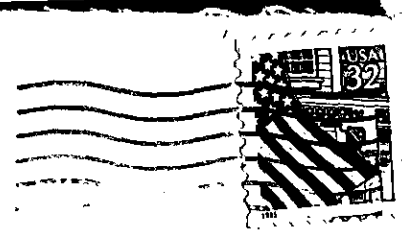
Thank You

Mrs Farris Calton

Lebanon, Mo. 65536

Mr Farris Calton
20039 Crabapple Rd
Lebanon, MO 65536-6071

Et parte



Missouri Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

att Sheila Lumpe

65102/0360

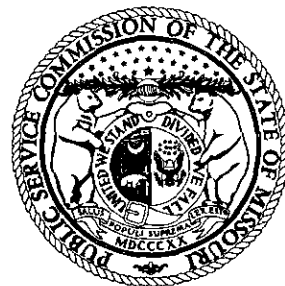


Notice of *Ex Parte* Contact

TO: Records Department: All Parties in Case No. TW-97-333
All Commissioners

FROM: Chairman Sheila Lumpe

DATE: January 26, 1998



On **January 22, 1998**, I received the attached document from **Senator James L. Mathewson**. The Commission is currently considering the same issues as to those set out in this document in Case No. **TW-97-333**. The Commission is bound by the same *ex parte* rule as a court of law.

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Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge
General Counsel



Commissioners

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Chair

HAROLD CRUMPTON

CONNIE MURRAY

M. DIANNE DRAINER
Vice Chair

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Secretary/Chief Regulatory Law Judge

DANA K. JOYCE
General Counsel

January 26, 1998

The Honorable James L. Mathewson
State Capitol
Room 323
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Senator Mathewson:

The Commission appreciates knowing your opinion.

This case is an open case, so I cannot comment on it. Your letter will be shared with all the Commissioners and be placed in the official file so all the parties can view it.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sheila".

Sheila Lumpe

cc: Commissioners

We received the petition today. We will take it up for discussion probably on Thursday.



RECEIVED

JAN 22 1998

MISSOURI SENATE

CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

JAMES L. (JIM) MATHEWSON
SENATOR, TWENTY-FIRST DISTRICT
89TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 323
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65101
(573) 751-4771
TDD (573) 751-3969

1737 WEST 10TH
SEDALIA, MISSOURI 65301-3655
(660) 826-7815

January 22, 1998

COMMITTEES:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
COMMERCE & ENVIRONMENT
FINANCIAL & GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATION
GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENTS
INSURANCE & HOUSING
LABOR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
RULES, JOINT RULES & RESOLUTIONS

Mrs. Sheila Lumpe
Chairman
Public Service Commission
Truman Building, Room 530
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Chairman Lumpe:

Attached you will find a copy of Senate Concurrent Resolution 30 relating to the Community Optional Service and our efforts to overturn the decision of the Public Service Commission to eliminate the COS service.

I am also attaching copies of the Senate and House Roll Calls which indicate a solid vote in favor of reconsideration by the PCS to extend the March 31, 1998 deadline for elimination of this service.

I stand ready to work with you on this matter which is so valuable to people around the wonderful State of Missouri.

Sincerely,

James L. Mathewson
21st Senatorial District

JLM/bfz
Enc.
cc Martha Hogerty, Public Counsel

Senator Mathewson offered Senate Resolution No. 974, regarding the State Fair Community College Roadrunner Soccer Team, which was adopted.

Senator Mathewson offered Senate Resolution No. 975, regarding Sacred Heart School, Sedalia, which was adopted.

Senator Maxwell offered Senate Resolution No. 976, regarding the One Hundred Third Birthday of Nona Claggett, Palmyra, which was adopted.

Senator Quick moved that **SR 969** be taken up for adoption, which motion prevailed.

On motion of Senator Quick, **SR 969** was adopted.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Senator Quick, Chairman of the Committee on Rules, Joint Rules and Resolutions, submitted the following report:

Mr. President: Your Committee on Rules, Joint Rules and Resolutions, to which was referred **SCR 30**, begs leave to report that it has considered the same and recommends that the concurrent resolution do pass.

RESOLUTIONS

Senator Quick offered the following resolution:

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 977

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate, that the Secretary of the Senate inform the House of Representatives of the election of the following officer:

Doorkeeper.....Ken Holman

Senator Quick moved that the above resolution be adopted, which motion prevailed.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

Senator Mathewson moved that the rules be suspended and **SCR 30** be taken up for adoption, which motion prevailed.

Senator Wiggins assumed the Chair.

On motion of Senator Mathewson, **SCR 30** was adopted by the following vote:

YEAS—Senators

Bentley	Caskey	Childers	Clay
Ehlmann	Flotron	Goode	Graves
House	Howard	Jacob	Johnson
Kenney	Kinder	Klarich	Lybyer
Mathewson	Maxwell	McKenna	Mueller
Quick	Rohrbach	Russell	Scott
Sims	Singleton	Staples	Westfall
Wiggins	Yeckel—30		

NAYS—Senators—None

Absent—Senators

Banks	DePasco	Schneider—3
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Absent with leave—Senator Curls—1

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The following Bills and Joint Resolution were read the 1st time and 1,000 copies ordered printed:

SB 682—By Westfall.

An Act to repeal section 288.090, RSMo Supp. 1997, relating to unemployment benefits, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the same subject.

SB 683—By Westfall and Childers.

An Act to amend chapter 301, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to motor vehicle license plates.

SB 684—By Caskey.

An Act to repeal sections 211.073 and 211.181, RSMo Supp. 1997, relating to juveniles, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to the same subject.

SB 685—By Childers.

An Act to repeal section 165.011, RSMo Supp. 1997, relating to funds for public school capital projects, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the same subject.

SB 686—By Childers.

An Act to repeal section 163.023, RSMo 1994, relating to accreditation of school districts, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the same subject.

1/20/98

SECOND READING OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTIONS

HJR 41 and **HJR 42** were read the second time.

SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILLS

HB 1417 through **HB 1440** were read the second time.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SCR 30, relating to telephone service, was taken up by Representative Farnen.

On motion of Representative Farnen, **SCR 30** was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: 145

Alter	Backer	Ballard	Barnett	Barry 100
Bartelsmeyer	Bauer	Bennett	Berkstresser	Bland
Boatright	Bonner	Boucher	Bray 84	Broach
Burton	Campbell	Champion	Chrismer	Cierpiot
Clayton	Cooper	Crawford	Crump	Daniel 42
Daniels 41	Davis 122	Davis 63	DeMarce	Dolan
Donovan	Dougherty	Edwards-Pavia	Elliott	Enz
Evans	Farnen	Fitzwater	Foley	Foster
Franklin	Fritts	Froelker	Gaskill	Gaston
Gibbons	Graham 106	Graham 24	Gratz	Green
Griesheimer	Gross	Hagan-Harrell	Hall	Harlan
Hartzler 123	Hartzler 124	Heckemeyer	Hegeman	Hendrickson
Hickey	Hilgemann	Hohulin	Holand	Hollingsworth
Hoppe	Hosmer	Howerton	Johnson	Kasten
Kauffman	Kelley 47	Kelly 27	Kennedy	Kissell
Klindt	Koller	Kreider	Lakin	Leake
Legan	Levin	Liese	Lograsso	Long
Luetkenhaus	Marble	May 108	Mays 50	McBride
McClelland	McLuckie	Merideth	Miller	Monaco
Murray	Naeger	Nordwald	O'Connor	O'Toole
Ostmann	Overschmidt	Parker	Patek	Pouche
Pryor	Purgason	Ransdall	Reinhart	Relford
Reynolds	Richardson	Rizzo	Robirds	Ross
Sallee	Schilling	Schwab	Scott	Secrest
Seigfreid	Sheldon 104	Shelton 57	Shields	Skaggs
Smith	Steen	Stokan	Stoll	Stroker
Summers	Surface	Thomason 163	Townley	Treadway
Troupe	Van Zandt	Vogel	Wannenmacher	Wiggins
Williams 121	Williams 159	Wilson	Wooten	Mr. Speaker

NOES: 011

Akin	Auer	Carter	Days	Ford
Gunn	Linton	Loudon	Murphy	Scheve
Thompson 72				

PRESENT: 000

ABSENT WITH LEAVE: 005

Copeland	Lawson	Ridgeway	Shear	Thompson 37
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VACANCIES: 002



SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 30

WHEREAS, rural telecommunications customers have lesser toll-free calling scopes than do urban customers, and rural customers pay more on average in toll bills than do urban customers; and

WHEREAS, Community Optional Service (COS) was created to afford rural customers with toll-free calling scopes to lessen this disparity; and

WHEREAS, COS is of vital importance to rural customers, both in petitioning and target COS exchanges, which allows customers to reach friends, relatives, children, grandchildren, schools, medical providers, churches, and businesses on a toll-free basis; and

WHEREAS, in recent legislation enacted by the General Assembly, the intent was to foster competition as a substitute for regulation, where and when competition exists, and for the benefit of consumers in increased variety of service offerings, increased quality of service, and at lower prices. The legislation specifically retained the goals of universal service and parity of service between rural and urban areas. It was the intent of this legislation that rural customers not be harmed by increased competition; and

WHEREAS, recently the Public Service Commission (PSC) of the State of Missouri announced its decision to terminate COS by March 31, 1998; and

WHEREAS, the PSC failed to notify and give users of COS the opportunity to participate in this decision. The elimination of COS will be detrimental to rural customers and communities; and

WHEREAS, meaningful competition, and in some cases adequate facilities upon which increased competition can even be provided, is not yet present in the rural areas where COS is available, and is not expected to be available by March 31, 1998; and


WHEREAS, the PSC failed to protect rural customers by delaying the elimination of COS until it can be replaced by comparable or adequate substitutes for this vital service:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate of the Eighty-ninth General Assembly, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby direct the PSC to do the following:


1. Vacate the decision to eliminate COS by March 31, 1998.
2. Reopen the consideration of the decision as to whether to modify or eliminate COS.
3. Notify all affected members of the public, their local and state elected officials, and newspapers of general circulation, that the decision is being reconsidered, and announce local public hearings.

Terry L. Spieler, Secretary of the Senate, and Anne C. Walker, Chief Clerk of the House, do hereby certify that the aforementioned is a true and correct copy of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 30, adopted by the Senate on January 12, 1998, and concurred in by the House on January 20, 1998.





SECRETARY OF THE SENATE



CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE