

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120

Recalculation of the Pennsylvania
Telecommunications Relay Service Surcharge

Public Meeting June 17, 2021
3023544-TUS
Docket No. M-2021-3023544

**JOINT MOTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN DAVID W. SWEET AND
COMMISSIONER JOHN F. COLEMAN, JR.**

Before the Commission is a recommendation to establish the Pennsylvania Telecommunications Relay Service surcharge funding mechanism (TRS surcharge) for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. The recommendation is to continue with a TRS surcharge rate of \$0.08 per line per month for the upcoming surcharge year.

The TRS surcharge recovers the costs of providing calling services and equipment to individuals that are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or have difficulty speaking to make and receive telephone calls. The TRS surcharge funds three individual programs: the telephone relay service itself, the Telecommunications Device Distribution Program, and the Print Media Access System Program.

Last year, the Commission was split 2-2 on the recommendation submitted at the June 18, 2020 public meeting to establish a TRS surcharge rate of \$0.08 per line per month for 2020-2021. Last year, there were two votes to maintain the \$0.08 rate and two Commissioners who supported reducing the surcharge rate to \$0. As a compromise, we propose to establish a TRS surcharge rate of \$0.04 per line per month for 2021-2022, effective August 1, 2021.¹ This compromise approach provides regulatory certainty, and the TRS program will continue to be adequately funded.

THEREFORE, WE MOVE THAT:

1. The Telecommunications Relay Service surcharge for 2021-2022 be set at \$0.04 per line per month consistent with this Joint Motion.
2. The Bureau of Technical Utility Services prepare an Order consistent with this Joint Motion.



DAVID W. SWEET
VICE CHAIRMAN



JOHN F. COLEMAN, JR.
COMMISSIONER

Date: June 17, 2021

¹ This effective date is intended to allow carriers sufficient time to make the necessary systems changes to accommodate the reduction in the surcharge and to file the necessary tariff supplements. These tariff supplements may be filed to become effective on one day's notice.