

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120**

**Pennsylvania Telecommunications Relay
Service Annual Surcharge Recalculation**

**Public Meeting June 16, 2022
3030272-TUS
Docket No. M-2022-3030272**

MOTION OF COMMISSIONER RALPH V. YANORA

Before the Commission is the Pennsylvania Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) monthly surcharge funding mechanism for the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. The TRS surcharge recovers anticipated costs to provide 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 surcharge funds three individual programs: the Relay service itself, the Telecommunications Device Distribution Program (TDDP),¹ and the Print Media Access System Program.² The current contribution rate to fund these programs is \$0.04 per line per month. The surcharge is assessed only upon the customers of wireline Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs) and Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLECs).

The TRS fund is running a massive surplus such that current TRS services could operate with full funding for approximately seven years with no surcharge. It would be unreasonable and imprudent to maintain this over-collection year after year without recognition of the effect this may have on ratepayers. While I support access to the TRS programs I nevertheless do not support continued overcollections. Because the TRS surcharge is set on an annual basis any need for future funding can be timely addressed. For these reasons, I believe the TRS surcharge should be reduced to not expand the existing surplus.

THEREFORE, I MOVE THAT:

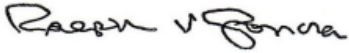
1. That for the period of August 1, 2022, through July 31, 2023, the TRS surcharge rate for residential and business access lines shall be set at \$0.00 per month.

¹ This program provides specialized telecommunications devices, such as text telephones and amplifiers, at no charge to qualifying persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, or with speech and language disorders, or with a physical disability that prevents them from using standard telecommunication equipment. As per 35 P.S. § 6701.4, the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry – Office of Vocational Rehabilitation is required to provide the Commission with an annual budget for the TDDP for the upcoming fiscal year. We note that our action on the TRS surcharge for the 2022-23 surcharge year should not be construed as an approval of the TDDP annual budget for 2022-23. Rather, the TDDP budget for 2022-23, including whether the budget is compliant with applicable law, is still under review.

² This program is a reading service for persons with certain vision-related physical disabilities.

2. That the Bureau of Technical Utility Services prepare an Order consistent with this Motion.

JUNE 16, 2022
DATE



RALPH V. YANORA
COMMISSIONER