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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5592**

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**State of Washington**

**60th Legislature**

**2007 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Water, Energy & Telecommunications (originally sponsored by Senators Berkey, Poulsen, Honeyford, Shin, Morton, Kilmer, Stevens, Pridemore, Haugen, Hatfield and Rasmussen)

READ FIRST TIME 02/28/07.

1       AN ACT Relating to the creation of a joint task force to develop  
2 reforms to statutes regulating telecommunications companies and  
3 services; and creating new sections.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds as follows:

6       (a) The competitiveness of the telecommunications marketplace has  
7 created consumer choice and strengthened the state's position as a  
8 national leader in the area of technology services and infrastructure;

9       (b) Traditional regulated intrastate wireline telecommunications  
10 services are part of a larger and broadening market and industry that  
11 includes voice, data, video, and other services that use fixed and  
12 mobile wireless, satellite, coaxial cable, fiber optic, internet, power  
13 line, and other converging technologies largely provided by a variety  
14 of unregulated or minimally regulated private and public entities;

15       (c) New telecommunications technologies and service providers  
16 continue to emerge;

17       (d) Encouraging investment in such technologies and services is  
18 vital to the economic future of the state and to family wage jobs for  
19 its citizens;

1 (e) Unlike competing companies, traditional wireline  
2 telecommunications companies are subject to legacy regulations that  
3 were created a century ago to regulate in a monopoly environment.

4 (2) It is therefore the intent of the legislature to review the  
5 state's statutes and rules and make recommendations that level the  
6 competitive playing field, encourage investment in new technologies and  
7 services, and enhance consumer choice, economic development, and job  
8 preservation and creation.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A joint task force on the reform of  
10 telecommunications regulation is created.

11 (2) The membership of the joint task force consists of the  
12 following five persons:

13 (a) The chairs and ranking members of the respective  
14 telecommunications committees within the senate and house of  
15 representatives;

16 (b) A representative of the governor's office.

17 (3) The task force shall appoint an advisory committee consisting  
18 of a representative of the Washington utilities and transportation  
19 commission, industry representatives, and a consumer representative.

20 (4) The staff of the telecommunications committees of the senate  
21 and house of representatives will provide clerical, administrative,  
22 research, and other services to the joint task force as directed.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The joint task force shall make  
24 recommendations to reform telecommunications laws in the state of  
25 Washington, and shall, at a minimum, review the following:

26 (a) The obsolescence of legacy rate of return regulation in a new  
27 era of increasing wireline and intermodal competition;

28 (b) The impact of disparate regulatory treatment on consumer choice  
29 in telecommunications services;

30 (c) Means of achieving regulatory parity among competitors in the  
31 telecommunications marketplace; and

32 (d) The reform of the regulatory oversight of video and  
33 telecommunications franchising.

34 (2) The joint task force shall deliver its report and

1 recommendations to the legislature and the governor by December 15,  
2 2007.

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