

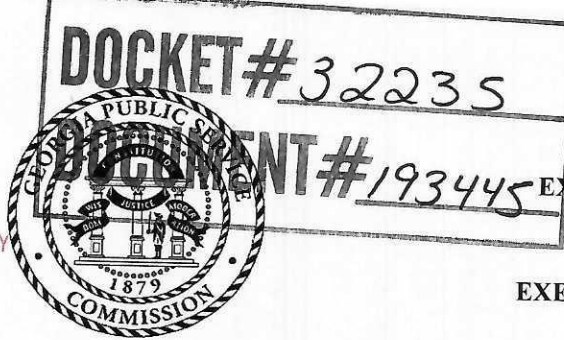
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Docket No. 32235

In Re: **Generic Proceeding to Implement House Bill 168**

ORDER MODIFYING UNIVERSAL ACCESS FUND CONTRIBUTION FACTOR

O.C.G.A. § 46-5-167 directs the Georgia Public Service Commission ("Commission") to administer the universal access fund ("UAF") and requires all telecommunications companies holding a certificate of authority issued by the Commission to contribute quarterly to the fund. In its November 23, 2010 Order Implementing House Bill 168, the Commission found that it "is reasonable to base calculations for contributions to the UAF on gross intrastate revenues." *Order Implementing House Bill 168*, p. 8.

The percentage applied to carriers' gross interstate revenues is known as the UAF contribution factor. The factor was last changed on June 15, 2021 and is currently set at 3.75% of carriers' gross intrastate revenues. BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC d/b/a AT&T Georgia informed the Commission that it "has been including affiliate transaction revenue in intrastate revenue that is subject to its contributions to the UAF," but that it will not be doing so going forward because GAAP does not require this revenue be reported publicly to investors and this revenue is "not included in revenue that is subject to AT&T's contributions to the Federal Universal Service Fund." (AT&T Georgia Letter (10/28/2022)). The Staff has reviewed AT&T's Letter and concluded that the contribution factor must be increased in order for the UAF to be sufficiently funded to "assure the provision of reasonably priced access to basic local exchange services throughout Georgia." O.C.G.A. § 46-5-167(a). Staff recommended that the Commission set the UAF factor at 5.25% beginning in the second quarter of 2023 (April 1 – June 30, 2023).

The Commission, having had the opportunity to review and consider the recommendation of Staff set forth above, hereby adopts the Staff's recommendation for the reasons stated therein.

* * * * *


WHEREFORE, it is


ORDERED, that the UAF contribution factor is hereby increased to 5.25% beginning in the second quarter of 2023 (April 1 – June 30, 2023).

ORDERED FURTHER, that a motion for reconsideration, rehearing, oral argument, or any other motion shall not stay the effective date of this Order, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission.

ORDERED FURTHER, that jurisdiction over this matter is expressly retained for the purpose of entering such further Order(s) as this Commission may deem just and proper.

The above by action of the Commission in Administrative Session on the 21st day of February 2023.


Sallie Tanner
Executive Secretary


Tricia Pridemore
Chairman

2-27-23
DATE

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