

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R4647 MTB-F

S.B. 564
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Business & Commerce
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DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, the Texas Universal Service Fund (TUSF) provides assistance to local telephone companies providing service in high-cost and rural areas of the state. TUSF is funded by a statewide uniform charge paid by telecommunications providers, but pay phone providers do not bill their customers on a regular monthly basis and absorb the costs associated with the TUSF assessment. As proposed, S.B. 564 exempts pay phone providers from the TUSF assessment.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 56B, Utilities Code, by adding Section 56.0205, as follows:

Sec. 56.0205. DEFINITION. Provides that in this subchapter, “telecommunications provider” does not include a provider of customer-owned pay telephone service.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2001.