

SECRETARY’S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission, on its own motion, to determine the surcharge for the statewide Telecommunications Relay System, to be effective July 1, 2026 ) Application No. C-5684 ) ) ORDER SETTING SURCHARGE ) ) Entered: April 28, 2026 )

BY THE COMMISSION:

On January 6, 2026, the Nebraska Public Service Commission (“Commission”) opened the above-captioned proceeding, on its own motion, to determine the appropriate surcharge for the statewide Telecommunications Relay System (“TRS”) for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2026. The Commission is charged by statute to hold an annual public hearing, prior to April 1 of each year, to determine the amount of surcharge necessary to carry out the provisions of the Telecommunications Relay System Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-301 to 86-315.<sup>1</sup> The surcharge is used to fund the TRS and the Nebraska Specialized Telecommunications Equipment Program (“NSTEP”) for the coming year.

The order opening the above-captioned proceeding and setting the matter for hearing was mailed to all interested parties on or around January 6, 2026. Notice of the proceeding appeared in The Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska, on January 8, 2026.

**E V I D E N C E**

On March 24, 2026, a public hearing was held in this matter in the Commission Hearing Room in Lincoln, Nebraska. Commission exhibits numbered 1-4 were offered and accepted. Jonathan Smith appeared on behalf of the Commission staff.

Tami Richardson-Nelson, the Chair of the TRS Advisory Committee, submitted a letter to the Commission dated February 23, 2026. In its letter, the Advisory Committee recommended to the Commission that the surcharge be reduced by one cent effective July 1, 2026, resulting in a revised surcharge of three cents. At the March 24th public hearing, this recommendation letter was accepted into the record as Exhibit 3.

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<sup>1</sup> See Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-313 (2).

Brett Bode, TRS/NSTEP Program Manager for the Commission, testified at the hearing on behalf of Commission staff. Mr. Bode presented the TRS usage data and surcharge forecasts, marked as Exhibit 4. Based on his analysis, forecasts, and experience as the Commission's administrator of the TRS program, Mr. Bode also recommended that the surcharge be reduced from four cents to three cents for the next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026.<sup>2</sup> Mr. Bode further testified that his recommendation was identical to the recommendation of the TRS Advisory Committee.<sup>3</sup>

Following Mr. Bode's testimony, no further witnesses were called, and the hearing was adjourned.

### **O P I N I O N   A N D   F I N D I N G S**

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-313 requires the Commission to set the TRS surcharge at a level necessary to fund the statewide TRS and the specialized telecommunications equipment program, plus a reasonable reserve. Upon our review of the evidence, the Commission supports the recommendation of Commission Staff and the TRS Advisory Committee, and finds that the current four-cent surcharge should be reduced by one cent effective July 1, 2026, resulting in a revised surcharge of three cents. The Commission finds this amount is sufficient to support the projected balance requirements of the TRS fund.

### **O R D E R**

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that, pursuant to the Telecommunications Relay System Act, the TRS surcharge should be set at three cents per telephone number or functional equivalent, beginning July 1, 2026.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all affected telecommunications companies are hereby required, beginning July 1, 2026, to collect a three-cent surcharge per month

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<sup>2</sup> Transcript at 17:06 – 17:12.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 17:13 – 17:25.

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on each telephone number or functional equivalent in Nebraska, in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat § 86-313.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 28th day of April, 2026.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

*Eric M. Hamler*

*Kevin Stocker*

Vice Chair

*[Signature]*  
*Dee Watson*  
*Tom Schram*

ATTEST:

*G. A. Walker*

Executive Director