

IMPORTANT REMINDER

DATE: June 14, 2024

TO: Carriers Remitting Telecommunications Relay Service Surcharges

FROM: Cullen Robbins, Director of Communications – Nebraska PSC

RE: **Effective July 1, 2024, the Telecommunications Relay Surcharge will increase to five cents (\$0.05) per month on each telephone number or functional equivalent. Except for wireless carriers, the surcharge shall be collected on the first one hundred (100) telephone numbers or functional equivalents. The remittance requirement also applies to all registered carriers (i.e., wireless, VoIP, etc.). Commission order in Docket C-5555 which accompanies this notice was entered April 30, 2024, informing carriers of the TRS surcharge for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024.**

The Nebraska Telecommunications Relay System provides for the full and simultaneous communication between hearing-impaired or speech-impaired persons using specialized telecommunications equipment, and other persons using conventional telephone equipment.

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-301 through § 86-315 require telephone service providers to:

1. Collect the surcharge (§ 86-313(1)): Each telephone company in Nebraska to collect from each of the telephone subscribers a surcharge . . . on each telephone number or functional equivalent in Nebraska, including wireless service as defined in section 86-456.01...The companies shall add the surcharge to each subscriber’s bill.

The recommended language for the line item on bills is “Telecom Relay Surcharge” or “Relay Surcharge.”

2. Remit the surcharge (§86-313(4)): Mandates that the proceeds from the surcharge must be remitted to the PSC (“Commission”).

Upon advance notice to the Commission carriers with monthly remittances of less than \$225 may elect to remit on quarterly or annual basis upon advance notice to the Commission. The remittance period for annual filings shall run from July 1, through June 30, which the surcharge remittance due July 30 annually. Remittances are always due no later than thirty (30) days after the end of the remittance period.

The online remittance system for filing worksheets and making payments will be used for TRS-remitting carriers. This system will also allow carriers to complete worksheets and make payments to the Commission for the Nebraska Universal Service Fund and Wireless 911 fund.

3. Eligibility Criteria for the NSTEP program outlined in Neb. Rev. Stat. 86-314(2) were adjusted during the 2024 Legislative Session in the following ways: a) increasing the number of individuals residing in the same household that may receive telecommunications equipment from one (1) person per household to two (2) persons per household, and b) reducing the re-application period of a recipient of NSTEP equipment from five (5) years to three (3) years.

More information about the remittance system can be found at:

<https://psc.nebraska.gov/telecommunications/remittance-information>.

The remittance system can be found at: www.Nebraska.gov/apps-psc-remittance/.

If you need assistance with the new remittance system, please contact the Commission.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you need any additional information, please contact Brett Bode using our Toll-Free number 1-800-526-0017 or direct at (402) 471-0225 or contact him by email at Brett.Bode@nebraska.gov.