

# **I M P O R T A N T      R E M I N D E R N O T I C E ! !**

DATE: March 30, 2017

TO: Carriers Remitting Telecommunications Relay Surcharges

FROM: Cullen Robbins, Director of Communications

RE: **Effective July 1, 2017 the Telecommunications Relay Surcharge (formerly known as “Dual Party Relay Surcharge”) will be one cent (\$.01) per month on each telephone numbers 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-4890 which accompanies this notice was entered March 28, 2017 informing carriers of the TRS surcharge beginning July 1, 2017.**

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.

Nebraska statutes 86-301 through 86-315, require telephone service providers to:

## **Collect Surcharge:**

Section 86-313(1)(a) requires each telephone company in Nebraska to collect from each of the telephone subscribers a surcharge not to exceed twenty cents (.20) per month on each telephone number or functional equivalent in Nebraska, including wireless service as defined in section 86-456.01. Except for wireless service, the surcharge shall only be collected on the first one hundred (100) telephone numbers or functional equivalents per subscriber. The companies shall add the surcharge to each subscriber's bill.

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

**Effective July 1, 2017 the TRS surcharge shall be one cent (\$.01) per month on the first one hundred (100) telephone numbers or functional equivalent per account.**

### **Remit Surcharge:**

Section 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 \$25 may elect to remit on a quarterly or annual basis upon advance notice to the Commission. The remittance period for annual filings shall run from July 1, through June 30, with the surcharge remittance due July 30 annually. Remittances are always due no later than thirty (30) days after the end of the remittance period. Please note this form requires certain statistical information in addition to the total proceeds. The remittance form for the assessment period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 is available online (in Excel format) at:

[http://www.psc.nebraska.gov/telecom/pdf/trs/TRS\\_Surcharge\\_Remittance\\_Worksheet2017.xls](http://www.psc.nebraska.gov/telecom/pdf/trs/TRS_Surcharge_Remittance_Worksheet2017.xls)

### **Electronic Payment Procedures:**

Commission rules and regulations require all payments to the Nebraska Telecommunications Relay Service (NTRS) Fund to be in electronic format utilizing the ACH-Debit or ACH-Credit procedures established by the Commission. All new carriers who may be required to remit to the fund received an information packet with an assigned Nebraska TRS (NETRS) carrier code. If you did not receive a packet, it can be downloaded at: [http://www.psc.nebraska.gov/telecom/telecom\\_trs\\_admin.html](http://www.psc.nebraska.gov/telecom/telecom_trs_admin.html). Under ‘Carrier’s Responsibilities for Surcharge Remittance’ section, select the item titled, ‘TRS Electronic Payment Requirements.’ **You must receive a NETRS carrier code before you can remit to the fund. Contact the TRS administrator indicated below if you have not received a code.**

### **Tariff Requirements (local carriers):**

All local carriers are required to file a tariff with the Commission **that explicitly references the TRS rate (not just a reference to the existence of a surcharge).** Title 291 of the Commissions Rules and Regulations section 002.21 states in part, “The provisions of such tariff shall be definite and so worded as to minimize ambiguity or the possibility of misinterpretation. . .” If carriers are subject to a group tariff, that tariff must also explicitly reference the effective surcharge rate per Commission Rules and Regulations.

Thank you for your cooperation and if you need any additional information, please contact Steve Stovall using our toll free number 1-800-526-0017 or direct at (402) 471-0225 or contact him by email address at [steve.stovall@nebraska.gov](mailto:steve.stovall@nebraska.gov).