



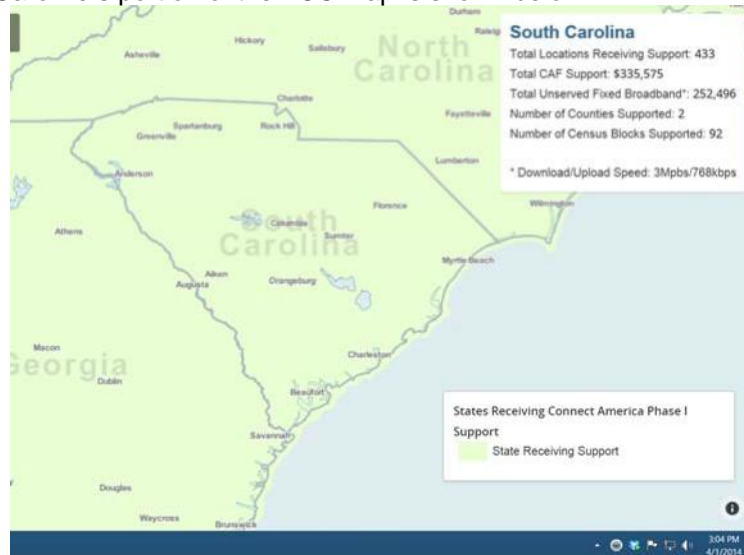
SCCTA

SOUTH CAROLINA CABLE TELEVISION ASSOCIATION

Federal Universal Service / Intercarrier Compensation Reform Report

The Federal *Universal Service Fund / Intercarrier Compensation Transformation Order*¹ issued in November 2011 was to comprehensively reform and modernize the high-cost universal service and intercarrier compensation systems. The Order created the Connect America Fund (“CAF”) to expand broadband infrastructure and mobile voice and broadband services to rural communities. The FCC’s Wireline Competition Bureau recently issued its *Universal Service Implementation Progress Report* which summarizes the actions the FCC and the Wireline Competition Bureau have taken to implement the Order and information on the impact of the reforms on eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) (“USF/ICC Report”). The USF/ICC Report indicates that over \$438 million funds have been made available to support construction of broadband capable infrastructure to more than 637,000 locations and over 1.6 million people. Between 2010 and 2012 fixed broadband service subscriptions increased 63% for incumbent ETCs.

In the first round of Connect America Phase I price cap carriers elected nearly \$115 million in incremental support to bring broadband-capable infrastructure to nearly 400,000 previously unserved people by 2015. A map of states where carriers plan to use the first round is available at <http://www.fcc.gov/maps/connect-america-fund-caf-phase-i>. South Carolina’s portion of the FCC map is shown below.



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¹ See *Connect America Fund; A National Broadband Plan for Our Future: Establishing Just & Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers; High-Cost Universal Service Support; Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime; Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Lifeline and Link-Up; Universal Service Reform-Mobility Fund*; WC docket Nos. 10-90, 07-135-05-337, 03-109, CC Docket Nos. 01-92, 96-45, GN Docket No. 09-51, WT Docket No. 10-208, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 26 FCC 17663, FCC 11-161 (2011) (“Order”).



From the Executive Director...

The second session of the 120th General Assembly (GA) of South Carolina commenced the second Tuesday of January. The SC Cable Television Association is currently monitoring over 200 bills filed in the Palmetto state. These bills either directly or indirectly affect the SC cable industry. However, this association continues to closely monitor each legislative desk, as members continue to file bills throughout session. Since this ends the second year of a two-year session, these bills will no longer be active in 2015, unless they remained in conference committee at *sine die*.

House Bill 4731 recently passed on second reading but ultimately failed on its third reading 27-79. This bill would have expanded the dual-party relay charge to apply to all local exchange providers, commercial radio service providers and VoIP providers in SC. Retailers would have been responsible for collecting the fee on each transaction for prepaid devices. Currently the charge only applies to local exchange providers. In expanding the fee to the additional services, the bill would have reduced the monthly dual party relay charge from \$0.25 per month per line to \$0.10 per month per line. In an election year, a number of House members felt that passage of this bill may make some perceive a new fee as a new tax. We expect this bill will be reintroduced in 2015.

The 2014 Key Contact conference was quite a success and we visited each SC congressional office actually meeting in person with SC US Senator Lindsey Graham, along with SC Congressmen Joe Wilson, Jeff Duncan and Jim Clyburn. I thank Brad Phillips, Dan Jones, Ben Breazeale, Tim Gage, Mike Mitchell, Brian Gregory, Jim Corrin and Rich Strong for participating in our efforts to assist the National Cable Telecommunications Association with federal issues of great importance to all of us in the cable industry.

I always look forward to our annual dinner in which we honor the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Office of the Lt. Governor along with their staff which will be held on April 15th. Cocktails commence at 6:30 with a 7:15 PM dinner planned at Al's located at 300 Meeting Street in West Columbia just a block across Columbia's Meeting Street Bridge. Earlier in the day, we have lunch planned at the Capitol City Club for our spring SCCTA board meeting.

I continue to appreciate the great governmental affairs team we have in South Carolina. Your input is very valuable as we continue to protect and promote the cable industry.

Ray Sharpe



Save the Date!

SCCTA Board of Directors Retreat

July 23 – 26, 2014

Wild Dunes Resort

Isle of Palms, South Carolina

Member News...



COMCAST EXTENDS NATIONAL BROADBAND ADOPTION PROGRAM FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

WASHINGTON, D.C. – March 4, 2014 – Comcast Corporation Executive Vice President David L. Cohen today announced the company will continue Internet Essentials indefinitely — beyond its initial three-year commitment. Internet Essentials is Comcast’s acclaimed national broadband adoption program for low-income families. The company also announced more than \$1 million in grants to dozens of non-profit organizations across the country to create Internet Essentials Learning Zones. The grants are part of a multi-faceted Gold Medal Recognition Program for communities that have done the most to help close the digital divide. In addition to the grants, Internet Essentials-eligible families in the Gold Medal-recognized communities who are not currently customers can receive six months of complimentary Internet service if they apply for the program by March 18th, 2014.

“In just two and a half years, this groundbreaking initiative has connected more than 1.2 million low-income Americans, or 300,000 families, to broadband Internet at home,” said Cohen. “We are also proud to join President Obama’s call to action for helping to realize his ConnectED educational goals as we announce today an extension and enhancement of our multi-year commitment to close the digital divide. Here at Comcast, addressing the digital divide head-on has long been a priority for our company. We believe the Internet has the power to transform lives, strengthen communities, and inspire a new generation of leaders.” The grants made through the Gold Medal Recognition Program will be used to create Internet Essentials Learning Zones. These networks of non-profit partners will work together to enhance public Internet access and increase family-focused digital literacy training. They will be established in communities in Atlanta, Chicago, Denver, Fresno, Miami, and Seattle, among others.

Also today, Dr. John B. Horrigan, head of research for the F.C.C.’s National Broadband Plan and a former research director with Pew Research Center’s Internet and American Life Project, released a new study of Internet Essentials customers that provides insights on policies that can inform the design of effective broadband adoption programs. The study reflects that Internet Essentials service is widely used by participants to do school work, that home users report it helps “a lot”, and that in addition to schools, full-on participation by institutions such as libraries, banks, government agencies, and employers, plays an important role in increasing broadband adoption and utilization. The full research report of Horrigan’s findings is available [here](#).

“The research shows that for broadband adoption initiatives to successfully reach low-income families, they need to embrace two key elements,” said Horrigan. “First, they must be woven into the fabric of the entire community with trusted institutions that can help nurture and sustain Internet usage. Second, programs need to provide robust digital literacy educational opportunities that address the knowledge gap head on.” Top research findings include:

- Institutions are important drivers in encouraging non-broadband users to adopt broadband.
 - 98% of families said they signed up for Internet Essentials because their kids needed it for school.
 - 83% said their child’s school expected that students have online access at home.
- Training makes a difference in how people engage with the Internet.
 - 48% say the most helpful way to learn new things is to teach themselves through reading or online videos.
 - 29% took advantage of in-person or online training resources and these users are more likely to say the Internet helps their kids with school work, how they access government services, and look for or apply for jobs.
- Broadband adoption programs are an important resource for economic advancement.
 - 62% said they needed Internet service to look for or apply for jobs.
 - 57% said the Internet helped them “a lot” or “somewhat” for job searches.

Since 2011, Comcast has invested more than \$165 million in cash and in-kind support to fund digital literacy initiatives nationally. Additional key program milestones and facts through the end of 2013 include:

- Comcast and its community partners have provided support for free digital literacy training and education for more than 1.6 million people.
- Broadcast more than 3.6 million public service announcements, valued at nearly \$48 million. *(continued on page 4)*

Comcast Extends National Program (continued from p. 3)...

- Sold more than 23,000 subsidized computers at less than \$150 each.
- Distributed more than 33 million Internet Essentials brochures at no cost.
- Welcomed more than 1.8 million visitors to the Internet Essentials websites in English and Spanish and the Online Learning Center.
- Fielded more than 1.9 million phone calls to our Internet Essentials call center.
- Partnered with more than 8,000 community-based organizations, government agencies, and federal, state and local elected officials.
- Offered Internet Essentials in more than 30,000 schools and 4,000 school districts, in 39 states and the District of Columbia.

The 15 Gold Medal recognized communities that will create Internet Essentials Learning Zones include: Adams County, Colo.; Atlanta, Ga.; Aurora, Colo.; Chicago, Ill.; Cicero-Berwyn, Ill.; Collier, Fla.; Denver, Colo.; Elk Grove, Calif.; Fresno, Calif.; Miami, Fla.; Palm Beach, Fla.; Pasadena, Texas; Seattle, Wash.; St. Paul, Minn.; and Tacoma, Wash. Comcast is also recognizing five "most improved" communities that are eligible to participate in the two-week, complimentary service opportunity. These include: Baltimore, Md.; Lee, Fla.; Philadelphia, Pa.; San Francisco; and Stockton, Calif.

[Internet Essentials](#) from Comcast is the nation's largest and most comprehensive broadband adoption program. It provides low-cost broadband service for \$9.95 a month plus tax; the option to purchase an Internet-ready computer for under \$150; and multiple options to access free digital literacy training in print, online, and in-person. Eligible families must have at least one child eligible to participate in the National School Lunch Program, including public, parochial, private, and homeschooled students. We estimate a total of approximately 2.6 million eligible families live in our service area and therefore could apply for Internet Essentials. For more information or to apply for the program, visit www.InternetEssentials.com or call 1-855-846-8376, or, for Spanish, visit www.InternetBasico.com or call 1-855-765-6995.

This Week at the Statehouse



Time Warner Cable Vice-President Dan Jones and SCCTA Executive Director Ray Sharpe recently attended a live taping of **This Week at the Statehouse**, which is a weekly program hosted by South Carolina Lt. Governor Glenn F. McConnell. This particular episode featured freshmen Senators Paul Thurmond (R-Charleston) and Thomas J McElveen, III (D-Sumter). These programs commenced under Sharpe's leadership as SC Educational Television Network's Governmental Affairs Director. Time Warner Cable is a long time sponsor for the state's legislative programming.

More Member News...



Charter Spectrum Brings Faster Internet Speeds, More Than 200 HD Channels and Advanced Voice Service to Asheville, North Carolina and Greenville, South Carolina

March 24, 2014, Simpsonville, S.C. – Charter Communications (NASDAQ: CHTR) is doubling Internet speeds from 30 Mbps to 60 Mbps for Asheville, North Carolina and Greenville, South Carolina customers where available, at no additional cost with the launch of its new Charter Spectrum suite of TV, Internet and voice services. Customers will also gain access to more than 200 high definition (HD) video channels and advanced voice service that includes unlimited nationwide calling.

“Charter’s standard Internet speeds are now 20 times faster than standard DSL, and our video lineup now offers the most HD in the area,” said Jonathan Hargis, Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer. “These improvements are made possible by our recent upgrade to an all-digital network. When you combine our reliable, full-featured voice service with substantially improved video and Internet products, our Asheville and Greenville area customers now have access to our highest level of service – Charter Spectrum.”

Charter Spectrum Internet™ plans now start at 60 Mbps – 20 times faster than standard DSL – enabling customers to simultaneously stream videos, download music and more without sacrificing Internet performance. Internet modems are provided free of charge. In addition to more than 200 HD channels, Charter Spectrum TV™ features instant access to more than 10,000 On Demand choices, including 2,000 HD offerings and 3D movies. The downloadable Charter App enables customers to watch more than 100 live channels on their mobile devices anywhere in their home. Charter customers can also take more than 40 networks on-the-go with their computers and mobile devices. Charter Spectrum Voice™ provides unlimited local and long distance calling in the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands along with free 411 calls. The service includes voicemail and 13 popular calling features such as call waiting and call forwarding – all without the added fees charged by the phone company. Charter service requires no long-term contracts and is backed by a 30-day money back guarantee. Customers may visit www.charter.com/digitalnow to print a copy of their updated channel lineup or call 1-888-GET-CHARTER (1-888-438-2427) for more information.

COMCAST CUSTOMERS CAN NOW STREAM MORE THAN 50 LIVE CHANNELS, ANYWHERE, ANYTIME

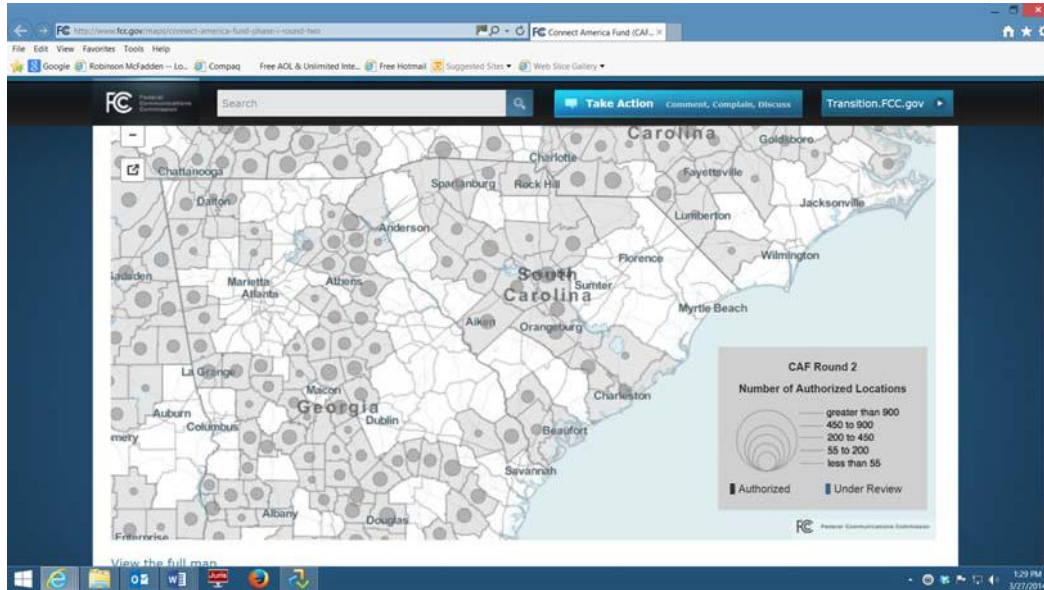
PHILADELPHIA – March 19, 2014 – Today, Comcast announced the addition of 18 live streaming channels to the Xfinity TV Go app including A&E, Bravo, Cooking Channel, DIY Network, E!, Food Network, HGTV, HISTORY, mun2, Oxygen, Sprout, STARZ, Syfy, TBS, TNT, Travel Channel, truTV and USA Network. With the ability to also stream more than 25,000 On Demand choices and download thousands of hit movies and TV shows to watch offline later, the Xfinity TV Go app now offers more than 50 live channels to enjoy on-the-go, wherever there is a WiFi connection.

“Everything we do revolves around providing our customers with the very best content wherever and whenever they want it, and the Xfinity TV Go app is just another example of that,” Matt Strauss, Senior Vice President and General Manager, Video Services, Comcast Cable. “Xfinity TV customers can now enjoy live programming from more than 50 of the most popular networks. We will continue to aggressively expand both the live and On Demand offerings on the app and provide our customers with the ultimate selection of content across all devices.”

Last November, the Xfinity TV Go app began offering live streaming television for the first time, giving customers the ability to watch some of the best news, sports, and kids programming over the Internet on their Apple and Android-powered mobile devices. All of the more than 50 networks are also available for live viewing online at Xfinity.com/TV. For a complete list of networks now available, please visit www.Xfinity.com/watch-live-tv.

Federal USF/ICC Reform (Continued from page 1.....)

As of March 14, 2014, the Bureau had authorized \$324 million in second round Phase I support. A map of areas where carriers plan to use the second round is available at <http://www.fcc.gov/maps/connect-america-fund-phase-i-round-two>.² South Carolina's authorized locations from the FCC map follow.



On March 14, 2014, the Wireline Competition Bureau authorized \$16 million in additional Phase I second round incremental support for AT&T and Windstream after both modified their elections by identifying additional locations in census blocks that were previously authorized.³

The Order also adopted a benchmarking rule to place limits on capital and operating expenses eligible for reimbursement through high-cost loop support. According to the USF/ICC Report from July 2012 through December 2013 there were 876 study areas affected by the partial phase-in of the benchmarking rule. Support decreased by \$33 million for 107 study areas and increased by \$33 million for 769 other study areas. South Carolina ETCs with study areas affected by the change in the benchmark rule include the following:

ETC	Difference
Farmers Telephone Cooperative	\$831,681
Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative	\$ 41,289
Home Telephone	\$ 22,173
Norway Telephone Company	\$ 9,291
Lockhart Telephone Co.	\$ 6,192
West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative	\$ 2,544
St. Stephen Telephone Co.	\$ 1,650
Fort Mill Telephone Co.	(\$13,782)
Bluffton Telephone Co.	(\$86,571)
PBT Telecom	(\$840,033) ⁴

² FCC Wireline Competition Bureau *Universal Service Implementation Progress Report*, WC Docket No. 10-90 ("USF/ICC Report"), p. 2-3.

³ Public Notice of Add'l \$16.7 million in Connect America Phase I Support Authorized, DA 14-353 (March 14, 2014).

⁴ USF/ICC Report, Figure A1.

Public Service Commission Elections

Terms for Seats 2, 4, and 6 of the S.C. Public Service Commission expire at the end of June. The General Assembly will elect the Commissioners in a joint session tentatively scheduled for May 22, 2014. The following persons have applied as candidates:

District 2:

Elliott F. Elam, Jr. (Lexington)
 Danna C. Harper (Columbia)
 Brent L. McGee (Lexington – incumbent appointed by Governor Haley)

District 4:

Philip T. Bradley (Greenville – former Commissioner)
 John M. Cochran, Jr. (Greenville)
 Elizabeth “Lib” B. Fleming (Spartanburg – incumbent)
 William “Kevin” Newman (Inman)

District 6:

Susan H. Douglas (Hopkins)
 Nikiya “Niki” M. Hall (Columbia)

Public hearings regarding the candidates’ qualifications are tentatively scheduled to begin in early April. The Public Utilities Review Committee will issue its report on the candidates in mid-May.

Core Communications v Verizon Maryland

The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals sided with Verizon in early March in an interconnection dispute between Verizon and Core Communications that began in 1999. *Core Communications, Inc. v. Verizon Maryland, LLC*, 4th Cir. Opinion No. 12-2572 (Mar. 6, 2014). Core requested the proposed

wholesale interconnection with Verizon be accomplished by September 1999. Verizon estimated it would take another 4 to 6 months before the essential new equipment for Core’s interconnection would be available. Core suggested using an existing multiplexer and “Loop Ring” already in the wire center. Verizon said it was technically feasible, but declined to do it due to its internal policy. Verizon also advised Core that the existing multiplexer and Loop Ring were already assigned to a Verizon customer of record. Verizon later disclosed that the customer of record was Core itself, already a Verizon retail customer in a separate context. Core filed a complaint with the Maryland Public Service Commission alleging Verizon breached the agreement by delaying interconnection. The Commission ruled against Verizon who sought review of the decision by filing a complaint for declaratory relief in the District of Maryland. The District Court overturned the Commission decision. Core appealed the ruling and the 4th Circuit reversed it and remanded it for further proceedings including a determination of damages and an assessment of whether Verizon also breached an implied duty of good faith and fair dealing.

The District Court consolidated the remanded proceedings with a separate state law complaint case filed by Core against Verizon in 2002. The state law tort claims included misrepresentation, concealment and unfair competition. Verizon’s summary judgment motion included an argument for the first time that the agreement contained an exculpatory clause that insulated it from the damages Core sought. The Court granted summary judgment to Verizon and awarded Core \$1 in nominal damages. The 4th Circuit upheld the District Court holding that there was a lack of proof on the issue of intent to defraud or deceive and that Core was not unduly prejudiced by Verizon’s delay in claiming the exculpatory clause negated the damage award.

SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

During the first quarter of 2014 **Act 121 / Senate Bill 22**, the S.C. Restructuring Act of 2014, became law. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/22.htm The Act abolishes the State Budget and Control Board and transfers most of its administrative functions to a newly created Department of Administration under the Governor.



The House will go on furlough for two weeks in mid-April. **House Bill 4731** which would have expanded the dual-party relay charge to apply to mobile and VoIP providers failed on its third reading in the House. It is expected to be re-introduced during the next legislative session. The following bills of interest were filed in the first quarter of 2014:

Senate Bill 1039 – Special Elections

Increases the number of weeks for the primary, runoff, and special election for offices following a vacancy. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/880.htm Senate Judiciary subcommittee.

Senate Bill 1069 – Public Safety Sales Tax Act

Allows counties of 50,000 or less to levy sales and use tax of 1% if approved by referendum. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/1069.htm. Senate Finance.

Senate Bill 1085 – Transportation Infrastructure

Allows use of local sales and use tax or toll revenues to finance transportation infrastructure. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/1085.htm. Senate Finance favorable report with amendment.

Senate Bill 1129 – State Election Commission

Authorizes State Election Commission to promulgate regulations related to post election audits prior to certification of elections. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/1129.htm. Senate Judiciary subcommittee.

Senate Bill 1164 / House Bill 4979 – ACA Anti-Commandeering Act / Navigator Background Check Act

Significant portions of the Affordable Care Act are an unprecedented overreach by federal government. Bill affirms State's duty to refuse to participate in facilitation and enforcement of the offensive provisions. Also establishes Navigator Registration Act. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/1164.htm. Senate Judiciary. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4979.htm. House Labor, Commerce & Industry.

House Bill 4452 – Campaign Funds

Amends the requirements pertaining to the authorized use of campaign funds. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4452.htm House debate.

House Bill 4453 – Campaign Funds

Allows a respondent 30 days to cure a misuse of a campaign fund violation. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4453.htm House Judiciary

House Bill 4454 – Campaign Expenditures

Revises manner in which campaign expenditures must be paid and the deletes the \$25 threshold. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4454.htm House debate.

House Bill 4455 – Campaign Bank Accounts

Revises manner in which campaign expenditures must be paid. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4455.htm House debate.

Legislation (continued....)**House Bill 4456 – Campaign Funds**

Prohibits cash contributions to candidates. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4456.htm House Judiciary

House Bill 4457 – Campaign Funds

Prohibits use of campaign funds to pay fines or fees imposed by an appropriate supervisory office. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4457.htm House debate.

House Bill 4460 – Constitutional Amendment - Same Sex Marriage

Resolution to amend SC Constitution to delete reference to only lawful domestic union recognized is marriage between one man and one woman. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4460.htm. House Judiciary.

House Bill 4461 – Income Tax Filing Status

Husband and wife would have the same state filing status as federal status by defining terms to include legal same-sex marriages from another state. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4461.htm House Ways & Means.

House Bill 4498 – SC Wage Assignment Act

Provides procedures to assign wages to secure a debt. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4498.htm. House Labor, Commerce & Industry.

House Bill 4511 – Income Tax

Replaces individual income tax with a flat tax rate equal to 3½% on federal adjusted gross income. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4511.htm. House Ways & Means.

House Bill 4549 – Zero-Based Budget

Must use zero-based budgeting principles in annual state budget. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4549.htm. House Ways & Means.

House Bill 4563 – Gas Tax

Increases user fee on gasoline and diesel fuel annually for the next 3 years by 5¢ per gallon. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4563.htm House Ways & Means.

House Bill 4613 – Zero Base Budget

House Ways & Means and Senate Finance Committee would implement a zero base budget process beginning with FY 2015-2016. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4613.htm House Ways & Means.

House Bill 4631 – Cell Phones

Illegal to use an electronic device while driving a motor vehicle. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4631.htm. House Education & Public Works.

House Bill 4655 – Director of Elections & Registration

Transfers functions, powers and duties of county election and registration boards and/or commission to a Director of Elections for each county. County Directors would be state employees appointed by the Executive Director of the State Election Commission. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4655.htm. House Judiciary.

House Bill 4701- Appropriations Bill

Appropriations for fiscal year 2014-2015. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4701.htm. Passed House. Senate Finance.

Legislation (continued....)**House Bill 4731 – Dual Party Relay Fund**

Expand dual party relay charge to include wireless and VoIP carriers. Failed 3rd Reading in House.

House Bill 4732 – Party Conventions / Primaries

Clarifies the authority of a political party to conduct an advisory primary at party expense and allows the party to set the date of a presidential primary conducted by the State Election Commission.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4732.htm. Passed House. Senate Judiciary.

House Bill 4778 – SC New Market Jobs Act

Provides a credit against insurance premium taxes and possible other state taxes made in certain investments by qualified active low income community small business. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4778.htm. House Ways & Means.

House Bill 4791 – Electronic Data Privacy Protection Act

Provides that an entity may not search an electronic device without a search warrant.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4791.htm. House Judiciary.

House Bill 4795 – Protection of SC Citizens from Federal Collection of Electronic Data & Metadata

Prohibits a state agency, political subdivision or employee from providing material support for or assisting in the collection of a person's electronic data by a federal agency. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4795.htm. House Judiciary.

House Bill 4799 – SC Small Business Tax Incentives Act

Allows various income tax deductions and credits for resident taxpayers for investment in qualified businesses.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4799.htm. House Ways & Means.

House Bill 4850 – Rights of the Regulated Act

Establishes requirements for state agencies investigating regulated people or entities.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4850.htm. House Labor, Commerce & Industry.

House Bill 4866 - Underground Facility Damage Control Prevention Act

Allows exempted water and/or sewer operators to elect not to join certain associations and related requirements.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4866.htm. House Labor, Commerce & Industry.

House Bill 4875 – Economic Development Tax Incentive Evaluation Act of 2014

Requires Department of Revenue to complete a study every four years to assess the impact of economic development tax incentives. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4875.htm. House Ways & Means.

House Bill 4884 – Attorney General to Represent Individuals in certain FCC Proceedings

If FCC observer is required to be present in radio or television studios during certain broadcasts to ensure accuracy, or other stated goals of a federal law and a station employee is the subject of any legal, criminal or disciplinary action as a result of the observation, attorney general may represent employee to ensure free speech rights are protected.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4884.htm. House Judiciary.

House Bill 4925 – Minimum Wage

Would impose \$9.75 per hour minimum wage if entitled to receive minimum wage under federal Fair Labor Standards Act. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4925.htm. House Labor, Commerce & Industry.

Legislation (continued....)**House Bill 4962 – Regulation Sunset**

Regulations promulgated after July 1, 2014, expire 5 years from effective date.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4962.htm House Labor, Commerce & Industry.

House Bill 4978 – Job Applicants

Job applications may not include questions related to criminal convictions unless crime directly relates to employment position or occupational license. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4962.htm House Judiciary.

FCC BRIEFS

The following documents can be downloaded from the FCC's website at <http://www.fcc.gov>

The 4th Quarter 2013 Report of Consumer Inquiries & Complaints was released on March 12, 2014. Cable and satellite services had a total of 1956 for the quarter for the top six consumer informal complaint subjects.

On Feb. 21, 2014, the 3rd Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the *Wireless E911 Location Accuracy Requirements* proceeding was issued. The FCC proposes measures to ensure PSAPS get accurate indoor location information for wireless 911 calls. FCC 14-13.

On February 20, 2014, the FCC approved more comprehensive rules for TV closed captioning. On February 24, 2014, the FCC issued its Report & Order which adopts quality standards for accuracy, synchronicity, program completeness, and placement of closed captions. FCC 14-12.

The FCC issued an Order on February 19, 2014 closing its investigation of AT&T's Special Access Tariff filing in December after AT&T withdrew the revisions to grandfather a variety of special access services including DS1 and DS3 services. Several parties filed petitions to reject or suspend and investigate the proposed tariff revisions. DA 14-219

On February 7, 2014, the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau issued an order extending the pilot program for the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program for an additional year. DA 14-170.

On February 3, 2014, the FCC announced an additional \$2 billion investment over the next 2 years to support broadband networks in schools and libraries.

On January 31, 2014, the Wireline Competition Bureau issued its report on the 6 month technical trial in which interconnected VoIP providers were permitted to reserve telephone numbers directly from the numbering administrators. The results reflected that it is technically feasible and that the arrangement does not present technical problems regarding number porting, VoIP interconnection or intercarrier compensation. DA 14-118.

The FCC authorized voluntary experiments and data collection to measure the impact of technology transitions in communications networks to allow it to evaluate how customers are affected by the transition from TDM circuit-switched voice services on copper loops to an all-IP network in the Order issued on January 31, 2014. The Order also created a rural broadband experiment program and in early February published a list of areas potentially eligible. FCC 14-5

On January 14, 2014, the Wireline Competition Bureau issued its 30 day notice that ETCs must begin querying the National Lifeline Accountability Database. ETCs are also required to collect and provide Lifeline subscriber information to the database.

STATE-ISSUED CERTIFICATES OF FRANCHISE AUTHORITY

As of March 24, 2014 the South Carolina Secretary of State has issued the following certificates of franchise authority. Changes from the last newsletter are highlighted in red:

ATLANTIC BROADBAND.....	Aiken, Aiken County, Allendale, Allendale County, Bamberg, Bamberg County, Barnwell, Barnwell County, Blackville, Burnetown, Denmark, Elko, Fairfax, Jackson, New Ellenton, Snelling, Williston
BALDWIN COUNTY INTERNET/..... DSSI SERVICE, LLC	Beaufort County, Charleston County, Greenville, Greenville County
BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, ... INC. d/b/a AT&T SOUTH CAROLINA	Aiken, Anderson, Anderson County, Arcadia Lakes, Bamberg County, Belton, Berkeley County, Blythewood, Burnetown Calhoun County, Camden, Cayce, Central, Chapin, Charleston, Charleston County, Cheraw, Cherokee County, Chesterfield County, Clemson, Clover, Colleton County, Columbia, Cordova, Dorchester County, Duncan, Easley, Edgefield County, Edisto Beach, Elgin, Fairfield County, Folly Beach, Forest Acres, Fountain Inn, Gaffney, Gaston, Goose Creek, Greenville, Greenville County, Greer, Hanahan, Hollywood, Irmo, Isle of Palms, James Island, Kiawah Island, Kershaw County, Laurens County, Lexington County, Liberty, Lincolnville, Little Mountain, Lyman, Mauldin, McConnells, Mount Pleasant, Newberry County, North Augusta, North Charleston, Oconee County, Orangeburg, Orangeburg County, Pelzer, Pickens, Pickens County, Pine Ridge, Ravenel, Reidville, Richland County, Rockville, Seabrook Island, Seneca, Six Mile, South Congaree, Spartanburg, Spartanburg County, Springdale, Sullivan's Island, Summerville, Travelers Rest, Union, Union County, Walhalla, West Columbia, West Pelzer, Westminster, Williamston, York, York County
BERKELEY CABLE TV, INC.....	Berkeley County, Bonneau, Charleston, Goose Creek, Harleyville, Jamestown, Moncks Corner, North Charleston, St. Stephens, Summerville
BROADBAND EXPERIENCE d/b/a FAMILY VIEW CABLEVISION ...	Central, Clemson, Pickens County
CAROLINA TELECOM SERVICES.....	Hickory Grove, Sharon
CATAWBA SERVICES, LLC	Rock Hill
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS, LLC.....	Abbeville, Anderson County, Belton, Campobello, Central Pacolet, Cherokee County, Chesnee, Clinton, Cowpens, Duncan, Easley, Greer, Greenville, Greenville County, Honea Path, Inman, Iva, Jonesville, Landrum, Laurens, Mauldin, Newberry County, Oconee County, Pelzer, Pickens County, Reidville, Salem, Simpsonville, Six Mile, Spartanburg, Spartanburg County, Starr, Travelers Rest, Union, Union County, Wellford, West Pelzer, Whitmire, Williamston, Woodruff
CHESNEE COMMUNICATIONS.....	Cherokee County, Chesnee, Spartanburg County
CHESTER COMMUNICATIONS, LLC d/b/a TRUVISTA.....	Chester, Richburg
COMCAST OF CAROLINA.....	Berkeley County, Charleston, Dorchester County, Edisto Beach, Goose Creek, Hampton County, Hanahan, Isle of Palms, James Island, Mount Pleasant, Sullivan's Island, Summerville
COMCAST OF GEORGIA/SC II.....	Beaufort County, Charleston, Edisto Beach, Hampton County, Hollywood, Meggett, Mount Pleasant, Town of Seabrook Island
COMCAST OF GEORGIA/SC INC.....	Aiken County, Burnetown, Hampton County, North Augusta
COMCAST OF THE SOUTH.....	Calhoun Falls, Prosperity
ELK COMMUNICATIONS, LLC.....	Gaston, Lexington County, Swansea
FAIRVIEW COMMUNICATIONS d/b/a TRUVISTA.....	Blythewood, Richland County, Ridgeway
FARMERS TELEPHONE..... COOPERATIVE	Andrews, Clarendon County, Coward, Florence County, Georgetown County, Greeleyville, Lane, Lee County, Lynchburg, Mayesville, Paxville, Pinewood, Scranton, Sumter, Sumter County, Turbeville, Williamsburg County
FTC DIVERSIFIED SERVICES, LLC.....	Bishopville, Clarendon County, Florence County, Georgetown County, Hemingway, Kingstree, Lake City, Lee County, Manning, Olanta, Summerton, Sumter, Sumter County, Williamsburg County

State-Issued Certificates of Franchise Authority continued...

GREAT FALLS CABLEVISION, INC.....	Town of Great Falls d/b/a TRUVISTA
HARGRAY CATV CO., INC.....	Bluffton, Estill, Hampton, Hardeeville, Hilton Head Island, Jasper County, Ridgeland
HARGRAY, INC.....	Beaufort, Beaufort County, Port Royal
HORRY TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE...	Conway, Horry County, Georgetown County, Surfside Beach
HPI ACQUISITION CO., LLC.....	Anderson, Anderson County, Due West
KNOLOGY OF CHARLESTON, INC.....	City of Charleston, Charleston County, Dorchester County, Hanahan, James Island, Lincolville , Mount Pleasant, North Charleston, Summerville
MANAGED SERVICES INC.....	Berkeley County, Horry County, Jasper County, Richland County
METROCAST COMMUNICATIONS.....	Marlboro County, McColl OF MISSISSIPPI, LLC
NORTHLAND CABLE TELEVISION.....	Abbeville County, Clemson, Edgefield, Johnston , Laurens County, Oconee County, Pendleton, Pickens County, Saluda, Saluda County, Seneca, Six Mile, Walhalla, West Union, Westminster
PALMETTO CABLE TV, LLC.....	Fort Mill, Lancaster County, Tega Cay
PALMETTO RURAL TELEPHONE.....	Bamberg County, Colleton County, Cottageville, Lodge, Smoaks, Walterboro, COOPERATIVE, INC. Williams
PASSPORT COMMUNICATIONS.....	Fort Mill
PINE TREE CABLEVISION.....	Aiken County, Bamberg County, Barnwell County, Bethune, Cottageville, Gaston, Jefferson, Kershaw County, Lamar, McBee, Orangeburg County, Perry, Salley, Wagener
PBT COMMUNICATIONS.....	Gilbert, Lexington, Lexington County, Monetta, Pelion, Ridge Springs, Saluda County, Summit, Wagener
RST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.....	Gaffney
SANDHILL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE..	Bethune, Chesterfield County, Jefferson, Kershaw County, McBee, Mount Croghan, Pageland, Patrick
SOUTHERN CABLE COMMUNICATIONS...	Georgetown County
TECHCORE CONSULTANTS II.....	Bowman, Dorchester County, Earhardt, Eutawville, Holly Hill, Orangeburg County
TIME WARNER CABLE,	Andrews, Batesburg-Leesville, Beaufort County, Bishopville, Bluffton, Calhoun SOUTHEAST, LLC County, Cayce, Charleston County, Cheraw Clover, Chesterfield County, Columbia, Conway, Cordova, Darlington County, Dillon, Dillon County, Florence, Florence County, Forest Acres, Fort Mill, Georgetown, Georgetown County, Goose Creek, Hardeeville, Hemingway, Hilton Head, Horry County, Irmo, Jasper County, Lakeview, Lane, Latta, Lee County, Lexington, Lexington County, Manning, Marion County, McBee, Moncks Corner, Myrtle Beach, Nichols, Orangeburg, Orangeburg County, Pamplico, Pine Ridge, Quinby, Richland County, Saluda County, South Congaree, Springdale, St. Matthews, Surfside Beach, Summerville, Sumter, Sumter County, West Columbia, Williamsburg County, York County
VIDEO VISION, INC.....	Fort Lawn, Heath Springs, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lancaster County
YRT2, INC.....	Berkeley County, Columbia, Dorchester County, Greenville, Greenville County, Horry County, Myrtle Beach, Summerville