STATE OF NEW YORK

5272--B

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 1, 2023

Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Energy and Telecommunications -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- reported favorably from said committee and committed to the Committee on Finance -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the public service law, in relation to requiring covered entities to publicly report on franchise fees, consumer complaints and denials of requests for service

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The public service law is amended by adding a new section 28 to read as follows:

§ 28. Publication of reports. 1. As used in this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "covered entities" means a telephone corporation with more than ten thousand customers that has provided line-powered voice service at any point on or after January first, two thousand twenty-one; and

(b) "line-powered voice service" means residential voice service that is provided using copper-based facilities that are line powered.

2. Within ninety days of the effective date of this section, the department shall direct all covered entities, to report publicly on its website or websites all franchise fees paid to the municipality or municipalities served, all consumer complaints, and any denials of requests for service from residents of such municipalities during the term of the current franchise. Covered entities shall report such information without unreasonably exposing consumers' personally identifiable information in a manner that violates public service law, department practice, or federal law. Such reports shall be updated quarterly.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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3. Upon a written request for an investigation into the covered entity's compliance with its franchise terms and applicable state and federal law, signed by (a) twenty-five or more customers, or (b) the chief executive officer of the municipality, or (c) the county legislature of the county within which the system is located, the department shall conduct an investigation into such allegations contained in a complaint letter.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.