

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

FUNDING FOR THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS) CASE NO.
RELAY SERVICE) 2018-00332

ORDER

On October 4, 2018, the Commission, on its own motion, initiated a formal review of the adequacy of the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) fund surcharge. Pursuant to the Commission's Order in Case No. 2017-00358,¹ the Commission conducts a formal review of the TRS fund on an annual basis to determine whether adjustments to the surcharge are necessary to reduce the potential for large balance shortfalls and overages.

All local exchange carriers and commercial mobile radio service providers were served with a copy of the October 4, 2018 Order and were provided the opportunity to file comments regarding this proceeding. As of October 29, 2018, the deadline for filing comments, no local exchange carrier or commercial mobile radio service provider has filed a comment in this proceeding.

Currently, the TRS surcharge is one cent (\$0.01) per month.² The Commission seeks to match collections with expenses, to the extent possible. The TRS program costs

¹ Case No. 2017-00358, *Funding for Telecommunications Relay Service* (Ky. PSC Mar. 24, 2018).

² The Commission decreased the TRS surcharge from two cents (\$0.02) per month to one cent (\$0.01) per month, effective January 1, 2018, in order to reduce the balance overage and minimize over collection. See Case No. 2017-00358, *Funding for Telecommunications Relay Service* (Ky. PSC Sept. 14, 2017).

vary monthly because they are based, in part, on TRS usage. The TRS surcharge revenue varies monthly because it is based on the number of access lines served by the carriers who collect the surcharge. Through September 2018, revenue received and disbursed by the TRS program are as follows:

Month	TRS Revenue	TRS Disbursement	Disbursement Service Month
February 2018	\$46,221.52	\$62,440.73	January
March 2018	\$41,475.90	\$51,589.92	February
April 2018	\$47,180.76	\$54,845.17	March
May 2018	\$42,123.56	\$48,513.36	April
June 2018	\$44,145.06	\$51,341.20	May
July 2018	\$45,973.78	\$44,344.93	June
August 2018	\$44,164.67	\$49,043.82	July
September 2018	\$45,012.54	\$48,694.36	August

Although the monthly disbursements are slightly higher than the monthly revenue from the surcharge, the Commission finds that no adjustments are required to the TRS surcharge because the fund balance has not reached a level that would require an increase or decrease in the surcharge to meet the funding requirement of the TRS program.

Pursuant to the annual review schedule established in Case No. 2017-00358, the Commission finds that the next annual review of the TRS fund should commence approximately 120 days prior to the end of 2019, with the goal of implementing any changes, if necessary, on January 1, 2020. An order should be issued within 60 days of the initiation of the annual review so that providers will have ample time to implement any changes, if ordered. The Commission notes that annual formal reviews are in addition to ongoing monitoring of the TRS fund and do not prevent the Commission from making any necessary changes in the interim period.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. The TRS surcharge shall remain at one cent (\$0.01) per month.
2. Carriers shall continue to remit the TRS surcharge monthly via the online portal established by the Commission.
3. A copy of this Order shall be served on all local exchange carriers and commercial mobile radio service providers in Kentucky.
4. This case is closed and removed from the Commission's docket.

[REMAINDER OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]

By the Commission

ENTERED
NOV 08 2018
KENTUCKY PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION

ATTEST:


Executive Director

