

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC FUNDING FOR THE) CASE NO.
TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY SERVICE) 2022-00420

ORDER

On December 20, 2022, 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 December 20, 2022 Order and were provided the opportunity to file comments regarding this proceeding. As of January 10, 2023, 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 \$0.01 per month. The Commission seeks to match collections with expenses, to the extent possible. The TRS program costs vary monthly because they are based, in part, on TRS usage. The TRS surcharge revenue varies

¹ Case No. 2017-00358, *Funding for Telecommunications Relay Service* (Ky. PSC Mar. 21, 2018).

monthly because it is based on the number of access lines served by the carriers who collect the surcharge.

At the beginning of December 2021, the balance of the TRS fund was \$778,880, and at the beginning of December 2022, the balance was \$770,418—a decrease of approximately \$8,462 for an average monthly shortfall of slightly more than \$705. Due to the current balance of the TRS fund, the TRS fund can sustain the monthly shortfall for 2023. Therefore, 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 90 days prior to the end of 2023, with the goal of implementing any changes, if necessary, on January 1, 2024. An Order should be issued within 45 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 \$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.

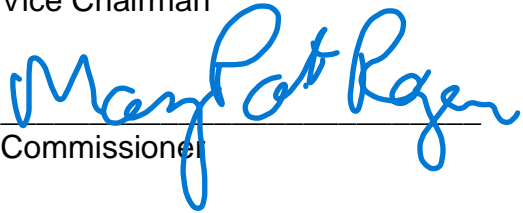
4. This case is closed and removed from the Commission's docket.

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Chairman

Vice Chairman


Commissioner



ATTEST:


Executive Director

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