

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 542

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOLLIS

COMMERCE: Provides relative to internet regulation by the Public Service Commission

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 45:1206, relative to the Public Service Commission; to grant authority to
3 regulate internet and internet service providers; to provide for definitions; and to
4 provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 45:1206 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §1206. Internet service providers; internet regulation; powers of the commission

8 A. As used in this Section, the following terms have the following meanings:

9 (1) "Internet" means the international computer network of both federal and
10 nonfederal interoperable packet switched data networks or any other commonly
11 understood general terms and meanings; including broadband, broadband internet,
12 fiber, and fiber internet.

13 (2) "Internet service provider" means any entity providing services that
14 enables a consumer to access the internet.

15 B. The Public Service Commission shall have and exercise all necessary
16 power and authority to supervise, govern, regulate, and control all privately owned
17 and operated internet service providers not under the supervision and control of any
18 city, town, or parish as provided by Section 7 of Article VI of the Constitution of
19 Louisiana, and to fix reasonable and just charges for the services furnished by such
20 internet service providers.

1 C. The commission shall have power to adopt and enforce such reasonable
2 rules, regulations, and modes of procedure as it may deem proper for the discharge
3 of its duties in connection with such companies and works, and it may summon and
4 compel the attendance of witnesses, swear witnesses, compel the production of
5 books and papers, take testimony under commission, and punish for contempt as
6 fully as is provided by law for the district courts.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 542 Original

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Hollis

Abstract: Grants the Public Service Commission authority to regulate internet service and internet service providers within this state.

Proposed law defines "internet" and "internet service provider."

Proposed law gives the Public Service Commission (PSC) regulation authority over privately owned internet service providers, including to fix reasonable and just charges, and requires the PSC to exercise such authority.

Proposed law grants the PSC the power to adopt administrative rules as are necessary to carry out its duties and authority under proposed law.

(Adds R.S. 45:1206)