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The IURC to Implement Regulatory Changes for the Communications Industry
Changes to take effect on July 1, 2009

INDIANAPOLIS – On July 1, 2009, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC, Commission) will implement changes that deal specifically with communications services in Indiana as required by Public Law 27-2006 or House Enrolled Act 1279 (HEA 1279).

Under HEA 1279, the following changes will be made:

- The IURC will no longer have jurisdiction over basic telecommunications service;
- Communications service providers will be required to be certified by the IURC; and
- The IURC will identify and eliminate policies and rules that are no longer necessary.

HEA 1279 does not deregulate the communications industry as a whole. Instead, it deregulates specific areas, while preserving or adding Commission jurisdiction over others. After July 1, the Commission retains authority over dual-party relay service, universal dialing codes, slamming and cramming, universal service, video franchising authority, providers of last resort and carrier-to-carrier disputes, among others.

The Commission's Consumer Affairs Division will continue to log consumer inquiries and complaints and forward them to the appropriate company. However, the Commission cannot provide dispute resolution for all communications issues, only those remaining under its jurisdiction such as slamming and cramming and video service issues that fall under the FCC's customer service standards. By logging consumer information, the Commission is able share data with the Indiana General Assembly and monitor competition in the marketplace for future reporting purposes.

With the enactment of HEA 1279, the General Assembly intended to create an environment in which competition could flourish and in which consumers could benefit from having more options with regard to communications service providers.

For more information, please visit our Web site: www.in.gov/iurc.

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The Commission is a fact-finding body that hears evidence in cases filed before it and makes decisions based on the evidence presented in those cases. An advocate of neither the public nor the utilities, the IURC is required by state statute to make decisions that balance the interests of all parties to ensure the utilities provide adequate and reliable service at reasonable prices.