

What You Need to Know About NM's New Telecom Legislation

During the 2017 Legislative Session, the State Legislature passed Senate Bill 53, which went into effect in June 2017. The new law changes the manner in which large wireline telephone companies are regulated in New Mexico.

Senate Bill 53 replaces the basis for the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission's regulation for these companies operating in New Mexico, mandating more relaxed oversight in pricing, quality of service and consumer protection.

The Commission is currently in the process of determining the appropriate form of regulation for carriers with more than 50,000 telephone access lines to comply with the requirements in the changed legislative language in Senate Bill 53 in Case No. 17-00186-UT.

CenturyLink is the sole carrier identified by the Commission as having more than 50,000 access lines in the state of New Mexico.

The Commission is required to report to the Legislature by July 31, 2019 on the impacts of rates, quality of service, employment figures for the large wireline telephone companies, the investment these companies have made in telecommunications infrastructure, and the availability and deployment of high-speed data services in their service territory.

Pursuant to the information collected, and upon further findings and hearings held by the Commission prior to July 31, 2021, the Commission may impose some level of re-regulation if it is determined to be in the public interest, as permitted by Senate Bill 53.

Customers with questions stemming from the passage and impact of Senate Bill 53 may contact either the Telecommunications Bureau at 505/827-6902 or <http://nmprc.state.nm.us/utilities/telecommunications.html> or the Consumer Relations Division at 505/827-1247 or crd.complaints@state.nm.us.

To access Case No. 17-00186-UT, visit the PRC's web site under the "Quick Links" header to access "Case Look-up eDocket," for user name and password instructions.