HOUSE RESEARCH
Bill Summary

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Senate File 2262 (H.F. 2414) repeals several sections of Minnesota Rules pertaining to telephone companies:

- 7810.0800: requires frequent inspection of equipment used to record information that affects a customer's bill.

- 7810.1300: requires companies to report to the Public Utilities Commission annually the total number of resolved and unresolved complaints; the number of telephone lines in each class of service, and the incremental change during the year; and names and phone numbers of company personnel designated to respond to commission inquiries regarding customer inquiries and complaints.

- 7810.2700: states that if a customer asks the commission to review a company's decision to discontinue service to the customer for non-payment, the company does not have to restore service unless the customer pays all current bills when due during the time the commission is reviewing the filing. If subsequent filings are made regarding the same account, the customer is obligated to pay for services rendered after the initial filing. If subsequent requests for review are filed before a decision has been made on an earlier one, any disputed payments are considered to be paid into escrow.

- 7810.4000: requires companies to furnish information to contractors working near utility lines or structures, upon the contractor's request, for information on the location of underground cables.

Section

- 7810.5700: requires the provision of one public telephone, available on a 24-hour basis and lighted at night, in each exchange located in an incorporated village. The commission may waive this requirement in cases of abusive vandalism or damage.

- 7810.6200: groups telephone companies into four classes based on average gross operating revenues.

- 7810.6300: specifies that the class to which a telephone company belongs is determined by the average annual gross operating revenues over the three preceding years.

- 7810.6500: requires telephone companies requesting rate increases to file a detailed income statement and balance sheet with the commission. Also requires the filing of annual stockholders reports and any reports filed quarterly with a federal regulatory commission.