

DEC 15 2023



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December 15, 2023

John McCullough, Director
Legislative Research Council
State Capitol
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Director McCullough,

In accordance with South Dakota Codified Law § 49-31-53, the Department of Human Services is required to report annually to the South Dakota State Legislature on the status of the access fee charged to landline phones and cell phones in the State. I am hereby submitting the recommendation that the current \$.15 access fee is sufficient to continue the Telecommunications Relay Services Program and Captioned Telephone Relay Services, and I recommend that the fee stay the same. This recommendation is based on the following information:

1. Number of lines and units that have been established and are assessed the access fee (Attachment 1),
2. Number of minutes being utilized by the relay service in South Dakota (Attachment 2), and
3. Revenues based on the State's Accounting System for deposit into the Telecommunication Fund for the Deaf (Attachment 3).

The fund balance at the close of SFY23 was \$2,783,132.65.

I request that you, as Director of the Legislative Research Council, pass this information along to the appropriate Legislators or Committees during this Legislative Session. If you have further questions or require additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Shawnie Rechtenbaugh

Shawnie Rechtenbaugh, Cabinet Secretary
Department of Human Services

SD Department of Human Services
Telecommunication Relay Services
Cumulative Number of Lines/Units per Annual Period, by Category Type (Attachment 1)



SOUTH DAKOTA TELECOMMUNICATION RELAY MINUTES

Contract Years 2021 - 2023

(Attachment 2)

TRS CY 2021 : 06/01/2020 - 5/31/2021		CapTel CY 2021 : 06/01/2020 - 5/31/2021	
Month	Minutes	Month	Minutes
Jun	952	Jun	6,888
Jul	1,263	Jul	6,093
Aug	982	Aug	6,051
Sep	945	Sep	6,157
Oct	616	Oct	6,343
Nov	904	Nov	6,076
Dec	918	Dec	5,969
Jan	766	Jan	5,479
Feb	615	Feb	4,470
Mar	793	Mar	3,664
Apr	1,050	Apr	3,587
May	791	May	3,391
Total	10,595	Total	64,168
TRS CY 2022 : 06/01/2021 - 5/31/2022		CapTel CY 2022 : 06/01/2021 - 5/31/2022	
Month	Minutes	Month	Minutes
Jun	842	Jun	2,899
Jul	743	Jul	3,527
Aug	553	Aug	2,858
Sep	820	Sep	3,056
Oct	619	Oct	3,229
Nov	639	Nov	3,009
Dec	608	Dec	3,058
Jan	570	Jan	3,139
Feb	658	Feb	2,897
Mar	534	Mar	3,149
Apr	514	Apr	2,716
May	540	May	3,148
Total	7,640	Total	36,684
TRS CY 2023: 06/01/2022 - 5/31/2023		CapTel CY 2023: 06/01/2022 - 5/31/2023	
Month	Minutes	Month	Minutes
Jun	471	Jun	1,994
Jul	393	Jul	1,658
Aug	614	Aug	428
Sep	467	Sep	0
Oct	491	Oct	0
Nov	581	Nov	0
Dec	1,966	Dec	0
Jan	637	Jan	0
Feb	565	Feb	0
Mar	724	Mar	0
Apr	320	Apr	0
May	377	May	0
Total	7,606	Total	4,080

SD Department of Human Services
 Telecommunication Relay Services
 Revenues based on State's Accounting System (Attachment 3)

