



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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December 16, 2024

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 SFY24 was \$2,809,332.27.

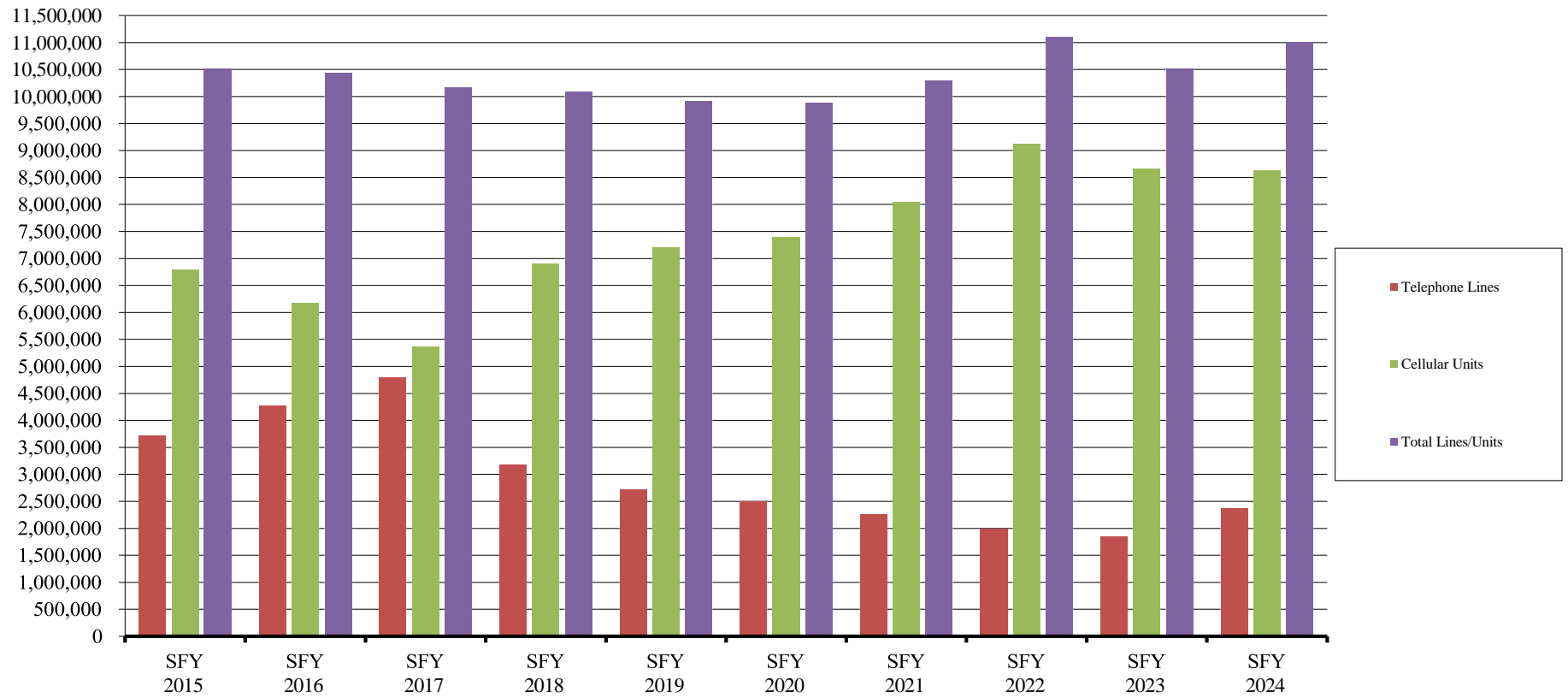
I request that you, as Director of the Legislative Research Council, pass this information along to the appropriate Legislators or Committees during this Legislative Session. If you have further questions or require additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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 2022 - 2024
(Attachment 2)**

TRS: 06/01/2021 - 5/31/2022			CapTel: 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: 06/01/2022 - 5/31/2023			CapTel: 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
TRS: 06/01/2023 - 5/31/2024				
Month	Minutes			
Jun	625			
Jul	549			
Aug	560			
Sep	308			
Oct	481			
Nov	553			
Dec	482			
Jan	987			
Feb	630			
Mar	384			
Apr	572			
May	617			
Total	6,748			

* Captioned telephone service provided by the state was terminated in 2023; the few remaining users were transitioned to newer technology.

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

