

PRESS RELEASE  
**ALABAMA**  
Public Service Commission



*For Immediate Release*  
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## **APSC Moves Closer To Reforming Inmate Calling Service**

**Montgomery, Alabama** – Today, members of the Alabama Public Service Commission (APSC) approved a staff proposal recommending changes to rates and fees associated with Inmate Calling Service. Additionally, the Commission included a provision that will allow interested parties an opportunity to comment on the contents of the Order through June 12, 2014. Any changes to the Inmate Calling Service will not become effective until the Commission issues a final Order in the proceeding.

Inmate Calling Service provides an essential conduit for communications between inmates and their families during the incarceration period. Prepaid service is offered and accounts for the majority of inmate calls to their families. It also provides inmates with outbound only calling that is billed to the party agreeing to accept collect call charges. Because families may be disproportionately impacted by the relatively higher costs of inmate calls, the Commission initiated the proceedings to ensure that rates and fees are fair and reasonable.

Today's decision continues the process initiated October 1, 2013 by way of Commission Order in Docket 15957 for reforming Inmate Calling Service. Last month at its April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, the Commission voted to carry over a decision on Docket 15957 in order to more closely examine the various aspects of the staff recommendation and to ensure the proposed reforms are in the best interests of the public.

Inmate Calling Service applies to any type of confinement or correctional facility such as a prison, county or municipal jail, work release center, or youth detention center. Inmate Calling Service providers must obtain a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from the Alabama Public Service Commission before providing service to confinement institutions in the State of Alabama.

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