



STATE OF ALABAMA
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CUT – CUT – CUT
ALABAMA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ANNOUNCES
A TAX CUT FOR CONSUMERS

Montgomery – The Alabama Public Service Commission (PSC) on Tuesday announced the elimination of a tax on landline telephone service that provides funding for the state Dual Party Relay system.

In 1988, legislation was enacted to create the Dual Party Relay System and established a tax to fund the system. The PSC currently collects \$0.15 per month for each telephone line, which equates to \$1.80 each year for consumers. Over time the fund has collected sufficient funds to continue to provide funding for the essential services for a minimum of 8 years. As a result, the Commission has voted to eliminate the collection of this tax.

The Dual Party Relay fund has contributed greatly to improving lives of the hearing impaired in Alabama. The Commission appreciates the value of the service provided by the fund and is committed to ensuring the fund continues to operate in the future. This has been a tax on landlines and with the proliferation of cell phones, this tax now seems to affect more of our rural and our senior citizens.

Commissioner Twinkle Andress Cavanaugh, the Commission President said, “we removed the tax today because a tax set aside for a certain purpose should not continue to be collected when the need has been met. The Dual Party Relay fund provides a great service to our hearing impaired community, but we also have a responsibility to the taxpayer paying for the service. Many say that once a tax is implemented, it will never go away. Today we proved them wrong and cut a tax!”

Commissioner Jeremy Oden said, “As long as the Dual Party Relay Fund is able to effectively fund its’ mission, the Commissioners see no reason to allow the operation of the tax to continue.”

Commissioner Chip Beeker added, “We made the decision to remove this tax all together from the bills of the taxpayer. The removal of this tax will still allow the Dual Party Relay fund to operate effectively, but we also have a responsibility to the taxpayers in our State and the need for this tax has been met. Any time that we can cut taxes for the taxpayers in our State, we take delight in doing so.”

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