

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE  
51st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY

Call to Order: By Senator Tom Hager, on March 22, 1989, at  
1:00 p.m., Room 410, State Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Senators Tom Hager, Chairman; Tom  
Rasmussen, Vice Chairman; J. D. Lynch, Matt Himsl, Bill  
Norman, Harry H. McLane, Bob Pipinich

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Tom Gomez, Legislative Council  
Dorothy Quinn, Committee Secretary

Announcements/Discussion: None

HEARING ON HOUSE BILL 614

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor: Diana Wyatt,  
Representative from House District #37, Great Falls,  
advised that this piece of legislation was brought to  
her by many constituents from around Montana who have  
hearing impairments of various degrees. The bill would  
make available telephone lines and communication  
devices on loan to people in their business, in homes,  
at fire departments or police departments so in cases  
of emergency they are able to communicate. It provides  
for a ten cent charge on all telephone lines, which  
money will be used to form a privatized situation where  
hopefully some company will bid on this project and be  
able to provide this service statewide.

List of Testifying Proponents and What Group they Represent:

Maggie Bullock, Administrator of Rehabilitative  
Services Division, SRS  
Tom McGree, U. S. West Communications

List of Testifying Opponents and What Group They Represent:

None

Testimony:

Maggie Bullock, Social and Rehabilitation Services, stated she is appearing in support of HB 614. According to Ms. Bullock, the program is being supported by the Administration because it is seen as a primary example of privatization. The program would be administratively attached to SRS, and would be contracted out to organizations around the state who would be interested in providing the types of services proposed. Another thing it does in terms of privatization is eliminate the need for FTEs. Extra personnel will not be required at this time. She requested the committee's support, adding she feels this is a fine system to provide communication devices to people who are not currently able to take advantage of regular type equipment.

Tom McGree, representing U. S. West Communications, stated he also is in support of HB 614. He stated his company has been working with Representative Wyatt and others prior to the start of the session. They think it is a good piece of legislation. He pointed out that a universal services system has always been something his company has been interested in. Some impaired people are not able to use the existing telephone service. This legislation would enable impaired people in Montana to be able to utilize phone service the same as unimpaired people. He urged a do pass recommendation. A handout illustrating a telecommunications device for the deaf was distributed (Exhibit #1).

Questions From Committee Members: Senator Hager mentioned that Mr. Havdahl is now one of those persons who has a hearing problem, and he sets a little device on the table to pick up testimony in a committee.

Senator Himsl asked for clarification of the ten cents service charge. He asked if that money will buy equipment that would be given to the handicapped who qualify, and then would they pay their own service charges. Mr. McGree stated that was correct. He added there would be a fee of ten cents on all subscribers in Montana, collected by U. S. West Communications, sent to the state on a quarterly basis, and the monies would be used to (1) finance the equipment, and (2) used for dual party relay system. This system would be set up under this legislation to allow a person who is hearing impaired to talk to a person of normal hearing. There would be a centralized location set up to handle calls

from the impaired person.

Senator Himsl asked how much would the administrative costs be for U. S. Communications. Mr. McGree stated there is some funding already available. Senator Himsl asked if only approved equipment can be used, would the contract be with SRS. Mr. McGree stated U. S. West would collect the money, give it to the state for them to focus on the equipment, turn it over to the Department of Revenue where it would be put in an earmarked account for this program. The equipment would not be provided by U.S. West Communications, nor would they have to approve it. The only requirement is that the equipment be able to work on normal telephone lines. A committee would decide on the type of equipment to be purchased.

Senator Pipinich asked if it would require training for people to use this equipment. Representative Wyatt stated there would be no training required because of the simplicity of operation. She added that a handicapped person would approach the committee and request the service, and the equipment would be given on loan to that individual. She added that the most important part of this legislation is regarding the two-party relay, wherein all emergency facilities would have access to this piece of equipment.

Senator Pipinich pointed out that this bill would cost 3/4 of 1% of the total charges billed. Senator Himsl interjected and stated that raised the question of why this bill was in the Public Health Committee since it appears to be an appropriations bill.

Senator Lynch had questions regarding the fiscal note, and asked where the fiscal note is derived from. He also asked how the ten cent fee was derived at, and if this program does not cost as much as projected, what happens to that money.

Mr. McGree stated he would attempt to clarify by stating that the fee is fixed at ten cents. If the legislation is approved and the plan is put into effect, and the amount collected is higher than needed, then the legislature would be revisited in 1991 and perhaps reduce it. He stated at this point they do not know what the dual party relay system will cost or what the selected terminal devices will cost. It has been set at ten cents in other states.

Senator Lynch asked if the amount is in excess, where will the excess money go. Ms. Bullock stated that usually

in earmarked accounts the money does not automatically revert.

Senator Lynch stated that he was concerned that the bill did not put a limit on the ten cent charge.

Representative Wyatt stated they did not wish to underfund this project at the start. They would come back to the Legislature if it was overfunded.

Senator Himsl stated he has no quarrel with the bill, but feels that HB 614 should be moved to the Finance and Claims Committee.

Senator Hager asked if the Governor's office is aware of this statutory appropriation. Representative Wyatt replied affirmatively.

Closing by Sponsor:

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 614

Discussion: Senator Rasmussen stated it does not effect the General Fund so why would Appropriations need to see it. Senator Himsl said they are voting on a tax. Senator Lynch agreed with Senator Himsl. He added that if the Public Health Committee did pass this bill, eventually Finance and Claims should have a look at it.

Amendments and Votes: None

Recommendation and Vote: Senator Himsl made a MOTION THAT HOUSE BILL 614 BE MOVED TO FINANCE AND CLAIMS. Senators in favor, 5; opposed, 1 (Rasmussen).

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SENATE BILL 270

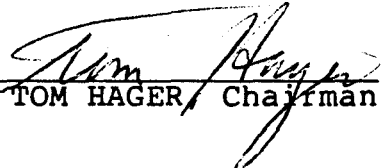
Chairman Hager called for action on SB 270: Chairman Hager advised that SB 270 got out on the floor without the amendments that the Committee recommended. It must be moved back to Committee, and then the Committee must pass the corrected report.

Discussion: None

Recommendation and Vote: Senator Lynch made a MOTION THAT SB 270 BE MOVED BACK TO COMMITTEE, AND A CORRECTED REPORT WITH AMENDMENTS ATTACHED, BE PASSED. Senators in favor, 6; opposed, 0. MOTION PASSED.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment At: 1:45 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SENATOR TOM HAGER, Chairman

TH/dq

senmindq.322



# \*Telecommunications Device for the Deaf

SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE  
EXHIBIT NO. #1  
DATE 3/22/89 HB614



## Telephone use *you* control

Enjoy powerful features that let you use the telephone — just the way you want to. While you're away, Supercom's auto-answer and memory features let your callers leave messages for you. Supercom also connects directly to your phone line to help stop background noise interference. You can dial right from the keyboard. And when your call is answered, the TDD Announcer™ (voice) can announce your call. You'll also enjoy using your external printer with Supercom's printer port. Supercom — powerful features that let you use the telephone — just the way you want to.

### Features

- Auto-answer
- Direct connect
- TDD Announcer™ (voice)
- 8,000 characters of memory
- Printer port for external printer
- Keyboard dialing
- Memory dialing
- Tilted, 20 character display
- User replaceable batteries
- One year warranty
- Options include ASCII code, heavy duty batteries, carrying case, dust cover and extended warranty.



*central*

**ULTRA-TEC**

SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE  
EXHIBIT NO. 1  
DATE 3/22/89  
BILL NO. HB 614

# SUPERCOM™ TDD

## Compact, powerful Telecommunications Device for the Deaf

Supercom has exciting features that will change the way you can use the telephone. Supercom can connect directly to your telephone line. And with keyboard dialing, you dial phone numbers right from the keyboard. Your TDD and telephone are built into one easy to use TDD.

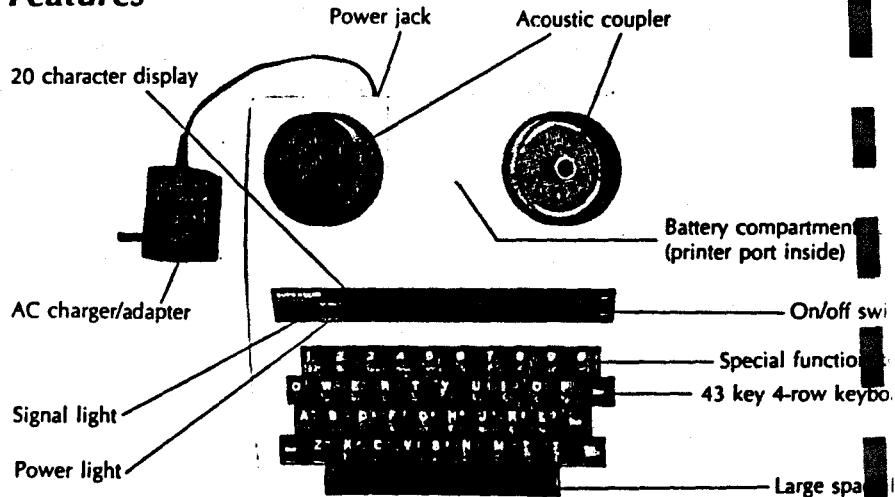
And that's not all that's built-in: Supercom's built-in auto-answer means that while you're away, Supercom can answer your phone and let your callers leave messages for you. You can save these messages using Supercom's memory or your own external printer.

Say goodbye to "hang-ups" with Supercom's TDD Announcer™. TDD Announcer™ is the built-in pleasant sounding voice that announces your call to hearing people by saying: "Hearing impaired caller, use TDD," until they answer with a signal from their TDD.

Supercom's rechargeable batteries are easy to change by snapping open the battery compartment door. Optional heavy duty batteries are also available. Other options include ASCII (computer) code, soft carrying case, dust cover, and extended warranty.

Supercom comes with a one-year warranty. And it's built to last, for years of enjoyable telephone use.

### Features



### Specifications

#### Physical Dimensions

Size: 8.9" x 10" x 2.5"  
(22.4cm x 25.4cm x 6.4cm)  
Weight: 2.5 lbs. (1.1 kg)  
(including batteries)

#### Power

AC charger/adaptor: 9VDC, 650ma  
(barrel is positive)  
U.L. listed, CSA approved  
NiCad rechargeable batteries (6 size AA)  
Optional heavy duty NiCad rechargeable  
batteries available (6 size sub-C)

#### Keyboard

4-row keyboard  
43 keys  
Typewriter style layout  
Character set: A-Z, 0-9, Bksp, Rtrn, Space,  
+ - = ! \$ % ' / : ; ? , .

#### Display

20 characters  
Blue/green vacuum fluorescent  
Character height 0.25" (6mm)  
Bidirectional

#### Telecommunications

Baudot (TDD standard) code (45.5 Baud)

Coupler: Accepts both circular and square  
handsets

Sensitivity: - 45dbm, 67dB SPL (min)\*  
Output: - 12dbm, 100 dB SPL (min)\*

\*Subject to changes in Communications Standards

#### Memory

8K (8192) characters, non-volatile  
Stores and sends messages  
Stores up to 10 different phone numbers  
Stores recent TDD conversations  
Stores and sends personal auto-answer me  
Memory edit functions: insert, delete, clear

#### Direct Connect/Auto-Answer

FCC Approved, U.L. Listed  
Connects directly to the telephone line  
Keyboard dialing (pulse)  
Memory dialing (up to 10 different  
numbers-pulse)  
Automatically answers calls with personal  
auto-answer message

#### Printer Port

Parallel interface pin assignments:

1 DATA STROBE	6 D4	11 GROUND
2 D0	7 D5	12 GROUND
3 D1	8 D6	13 GROUND
4 D2	9 D7	14 GROUND
5 D3	10 ACK	

Supercom is distributed by:

### SUPERCOM options include:



- Soft-carrying case
- Heavy duty batteries
- Dust cover



ROLL CALL VOTE

SENATE COMMITTEE Public Health

Date 3/22/89 Bill No. HB 614 Time 1:25

NAME	YES	NO
Sen. Hager	X	
Sen. Rasmussen		X
Sen. Lynch	X	
Sen. Hensel	X	
Sen. Norman	-	
Sen. McLane	X	
Sen. Pipinich	X	

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Motion: Senator Hensel made a MOTION THAT  
HB 614 BE MOVED TO FINANCE  
AND CLAIMS

Senators in favor, 5  
opposed 1.

ROLL CALL VOTE

SENATE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEALTH

Date 3/22/89 Bill No. #270 Time 1:30

NAME	YES	NO
Sen. Tom Hager	X	
Sen. Tom Rasmussen	✓	
Sen. Lynch	✓	
Sen. Matt Himsel	X	
Sen. Bill Norman	—	
Sen. Harry McLane	X	
Sen. Bob Pipinich	X	

Dorothy Quinn  
Secretary

Sen. Tom Hager  
Chairman

Motion: Senate Bill 270 has to be moved back to Committee, and a corrected report with amendments attached must be passed by Committee  
Senator Lynch made a motion to accomplish the above.

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In favor, 6; opposed