

Resolution on Audiotext Services

WHEREAS, The development and application of the technology known as audiotext, has resulted in some audiotext businesses engaging in practices harmful to the public interest and/or contrary to accepted standards of business practices; and

WHEREAS, The House of Representatives has proposed H.R. 328 that would require the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to initiate a rulemaking regarding audiotext services; and

WHEREAS, The proposed legislation defines audiotext services so all encompassing as to include a broad range of services, many of which may not require all the safeguards included in the Act; and

WHEREAS, State and Federal regulators must have the flexibility to apply regulations included in the Act as warranted by the nature of the audiotext service and its market; and

WHEREAS, Many State regulatory agencies have instituted regulations requiring blocking of audiotext service at no charge to the consumers and many LECs have initiated such policies on their own initiative; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Executive Committee of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened at its Winter Meeting, supports the need for legislation to clarify the authority of Federal and State regulatory agencies to regulate audiotext services; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the proposed legislation in H.R.328 should be amended to give the Federal and State regulators the flexibility to apply the requirements of the bill as warranted by the nature of the audiotext service and its market; and be it further

RESOLVED, That H.R. 328 be amended to insure that State regulatory agencies retain the right to require that common carriers of telecommunication services provide the option of blocking access to audiotext services at no charge at any time; and be it further

RESOLVED, That any regulations prescribed by the FCC for audiotext services do not preempt the State regulatory agencies from requiring additional regulations that are more stringent; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the staff of NARUC be directed to convey the concerns expressed in this resolution to the members of Congress.

Sponsored by the Committee on Communications
Adopted February 27, 1991
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