

HCS HB 1349 -- COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

SPONSOR: Richardson

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Utilities by a vote of 18 to 0.

This bill provides immunity for causes of action against specified communications and telecommunications carriers and service providers under Section 392.415, RSMo, based on damages or injuries to persons or property resulting from communication disruptions or failures during emergency situations unless there is wanton and willful misconduct.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will limit liability for dropped calls in emergency situations. This standard of liability is currently enforced for Missouri Public Service Commission regulated utilities and will continue to apply to deregulated utilities.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Richardson; Century Link; AT&T; Missouri Telecommunication Industry Association; and Verizon.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.