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VIDEO RELAY SERVICE COMPENSATION ORDER EFFECTIVE DATE FOR RULE AMENDMENTS AND COMPLIANCE DEADLINE

CG Docket Nos. 10-51 and 03-123

On July 6, 2017, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) adopted a Report and Order and Order¹ in the above-referenced proceeding adopting compensation rates for video relay service (VRS) and amending its rules to permit server-based routing for VRS and point-to-point calls, authorize the continued use of money from the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) Fund for research and development, and eliminate rules requiring the development of a neutral video communications service platform. The Commission ordered that the Report and Order and amended rules shall become effective 30 days after publication in the Federal Register.² A summary of the Report and Order and Order and final rules was published in the Federal Register on August 22, 2017.³ Accordingly, the Report and Order and final rules become effective September 21, 2017.⁴

In the Order, the Commission reestablished the effectiveness of the rule incorporating the VRS Interoperability Profile.⁵ Specifically, the Order requires providers to comply with the VRS Provider Interoperability Profile within 120 days after the date of publication of a summary of the Order in the Federal Register,⁶ which will be December 20, 2017.⁷

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¹ Structure and Practices of the Video Relay Service Program, Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities, Report and Order and Order, FCC 17-86, (rel. July 6, 2017) (VRS Compensation Rates Order).

² VRS Compensation Rates Order at para. 87.

³ FCC, Structure and Practices of the Video Relay Services Program, 82 FR 39673 (Aug. 22, 2017) (VRS Final Rules Summary).

⁴ VRS Final Rules Summary, 82 FR at 39673.

⁵ VRS Compensation Rates Order at para. 81. The VRS Interoperability Profile is an interoperability technical standard that in January 2017 the Commission's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau ordered be incorporated by reference in the Commission's rules. See Structure and Practices of the Video Relay Service Program, Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 32 FCC Rcd 687 (CGB 2017). The Commission had set aside the effectiveness of the technical standard in the 2017 VRS Improvements Order. See Structure and Practices of the Video Relay Service Program, Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities, Report and Order, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Notice of Inquiry, and Order, 32 FCC Rcd 2436, 2489, para. 138 (2017).

⁶ VRS Compensation Rates Order at para. 88.

⁷ VRS Final Rules Summary, 82 FR at 39673.

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