

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Incarcerated People's Communications Services; Implementation of the Martha Wright-Reed Act)	WC Docket No. 23-62
)	
Rates for Interstate Inmate Calling Services)	WC Docket No. 12-375

ORDER

Adopted: August 12, 2025

Released: August 12, 2025

Revised 2025 IPCS Annual Reports and Certifications Filing Deadline: November 3, 2025

By the Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau:

1. By this Order, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau or WCB) of the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) finds good cause to waive section 64.6060(a) of the Commission's rules for the limited purpose of granting a further extension of the filing deadline for the 2025 Incarcerated People's Communications Services (IPCS) Annual Reports and certifications from September 15, 2025 to November 3, 2025.¹

2. On July 22, 2024, the Commission released the *2024 IPCS Order*,² which implemented the expanded authority granted to the Commission by the Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act of 2022.³ The *2024 IPCS Order* modified the scope and content of the annual reporting requirements to reflect the reforms adopted under the Martha Wright-Reed Act.⁴ The Commission expanded its annual reporting and certification requirements to include the full scope of services and providers now subject to the Commission's IPCS rules.⁵ The Commission also eliminated the annual reporting rules mandating the reporting of information on ancillary service charges and site commissions.⁶ Finally, the Commission reaffirmed and updated its prior delegation of authority to WCB and the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB) to revise the requirements for the Annual Reports to reflect the Commission's expanded authority under the Martha Wright-Reed Act and the other

¹ WCB previously waived the June 2, 2025 deadline for filing 2025 IPCS Annual Reports and certifications to extend the deadline to September 15, 2025. See *Incarcerated People's Communications Services; Implementation of the Martha Wright-Reed Act; Rates for Interstate Inmate Calling Services*, WC Docket Nos. 23-62 and 12-375, Order, DA 25-338 (WCB Apr. 11, 2025); 47 CFR § 64.6060(a).

² *Incarcerated People's Communications Services; Implementation of the Martha Wright-Reed Act; Rates for Interstate Inmate Calling Services*, WC Docket Nos. 23-62 and 12-375, Report and Order, Order on Reconsideration, Clarification and Waiver, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 39 FCC Rcd 7647 (2024) (*2024 IPCS Order*).

³ Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act of 2022, Pub. L. No. 117-338, 136 Stat. 6156 (2022) (Martha Wright-Reed Act).

⁴ *2024 IPCS Order*, 39 FCC Rcd at 7940-43, paras. 565-70.

⁵ See *id.* at 7942, para. 569.

⁶ See *id.* at 7942-43, para. 570. The Commission also retained the rules describing the reporting requirements concerning Telecommunications Relay Services and related communications services, but renumbered them.

actions taken in the *2024 IPCS Order*, and directed WCB and CGB to pay particular attention to the video IPCS marketplace and the availability and usage of Telecommunications Relay Services in exercising this delegated authority.⁷

3. Pursuant to this updated delegated authority, WCB and CGB released the *September 2024 Public Notice* seeking to “expand and refresh the record on revisions to the Annual Report instructions, templates, and certification form, in addition to those proposed in the *August 2023 Public Notice*, and to implement the modifications to the annual reporting and certification requirements adopted by the Commission in the *2024 IPCS Order*.”⁸ The *September 2024 Public Notice* also sought comment on “any additional modifications [WCB and CGB] should consider to make these forms consistent with the new rules, including the varied compliance dates adopted in the *2024 IPCS Order*” for the Commission’s rate cap and site commission reforms.⁹ The Commission received comments from IPCS providers and public interest advocates.

4. On January 8, 2025, WCB and CGB adopted the *2025 Annual Reports Order*, which largely followed the proposals in the *August 2023 Public Notice* and the *September 2024 Public Notice*, and revised instructions and templates for the Annual Reports and certifications for IPCS providers to both enhance the value and usefulness of the Annual Reports and streamline existing or proposed reporting burdens, while continuing to enable the Commission to monitor the IPCS marketplace.¹⁰ WCB and CGB found good cause to extend the filing deadline for the 2025 IPCS Annual Reports from April 1, 2025 to June 2, 2025¹¹ and later extended the filing deadline from June 2, 2025 to September 15, 2025.¹² On June 30, 2025, WCB temporarily waived the deadlines for complying with the rate cap, site commission, and per-minute pricing rules adopted in the *2024 IPCS Order* to ensure sufficient funding for safety and security tools while the Commission continues to reevaluate its IPCS rules in light of unanticipated and ongoing implementation challenges.¹³

5. As required, the Commission submitted its revisions to the relevant information collection, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act, to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information

⁷ See *id.* at 7943-44, paras. 571-72.

⁸ *Incarcerated People’s Communications Services; Implementation of the Martha Wright-Reed Act; Rates for Interstate Inmate Calling Services*, WC Docket Nos. 23-62 and 12-375, Public Notice, 39 FCC Rcd 10499, 10500 (WCB/CGB Sept. 11, 2024) (*September 2024 Public Notice*); *Incarcerated People’s Communications Services; Implementation of the Martha Wright-Reed Act; Rates for Interstate Inmate Calling Services*, WC Docket Nos. 23-62 and 12-375, Public Notice, 38 FCC Rcd 6732 (WCB/CGB 2023) (*August 2023 Public Notice*).

⁹ *September 2024 Public Notice*, 39 FCC Rcd at 10500-01; see *2024 IPCS Order*, 39 FCC Rcd at 7950-54, paras. 587-94.

¹⁰ See *Incarcerated People’s Communications Services; Implementation of the Martha Wright-Reed Act; Rates for Interstate Inmate Calling Services*, WC Docket Nos. 23-62 and 12-375, Order, 40 FCC Rcd 149, 153, para. 10 (Jan. 8, 2025) (*2025 Annual Reports Order*). The revised Annual Reports instructions, reporting templates, and certification form adopted by the *2025 Annual Reports Order* were posted on the Commission’s website at the time of their adoption and are accessible at the following link: <https://www.fcc.gov/general/ipcs>. The 2025 IPCS Annual Reports and certifications will collect IPCS providers’ calendar year 2024 information.

¹¹ *Id.* at 166-67, paras. 52-53.

¹² *Incarcerated People’s Communications Services; Implementation of the Martha Wright-Reed Act; Rates for Interstate Inmate Calling Services*, WC Docket Nos. 23-62 and 12-375, Order, DA 25-338, at 1, para. 1 (WCB Apr. 11, 2025).

¹³ See *Incarcerated People’s Communications Services; Implementation of the Martha Wright-Reed Act; Rates for Interstate Inmate Calling Services*, WC Docket Nos. 23-62 and 12-375, Order, DA 25-565, at 1, para. 1 (WCB June 30, 2025) (*2025 IPCS Waiver Order*).

collection should be submitted on or before August 25, 2025.¹⁴ We recognize that providers would have less than a month between the likely approval date of the information collection and the September 15, 2025 filing deadline to finalize their Annual Reports and certifications, which may not afford sufficient time for a fulsome response. Therefore, we extend the deadline to November 3, 2025 to ensure sufficient time for providers to prepare the Annual Reports and certifications. The Bureau will release a public notice announcing the effective date of the Annual Reports and certification rule upon OMB's approval of the information collection.

6. We therefore waive on our own motion section 64.6060(a) of the Commission's rules for the limited purpose of granting a further extension of the filing deadline for the 2025 IPCS Annual Reports from September 15, 2025 to November 3, 2025.¹⁵ Generally, the Commission's rules may be waived for good cause shown.¹⁶ In evaluating whether good cause exists for waiver of its rules, the Commission considers whether the particular facts make strict compliance inconsistent with the public interest.¹⁷ The Commission may also take into account concerns of hardship, equity, or more effective implementation of overall policy on an individual basis.¹⁸ Waiver of the Commission's rules is therefore only appropriate if special circumstances warrant a deviation from the general rule, and such deviation will serve the public interest.¹⁹

7. We find good cause to waive section 64.6060(a) of the Commission's rules to extend the deadline for filing the 2025 IPCS Annual Reports and certifications from September 15, 2025 to November 3, 2025. The Annual Reports "enable the Commission to monitor and track trends in the IPCS marketplace, increase provider transparency, and ensure compliance with the Commission's rules."²⁰ As these will be the first Annual Reports for which IPCS providers are required to use the revised instructions, templates, and certification form adopted in the *2025 Annual Reports Order*, it is therefore vital that providers are granted ample time to submit complete and accurate data. These data will enable the Commission to effectively monitor IPCS providers' compliance, better determine just and reasonable IPCS rates, and assess whether IPCS providers are fairly compensated. Further, these Annual Reports will enable the Commission to analyze implementation challenges brought to our attention and preserve correctional officials' ability to provide safe and secure access to IPCS.²¹ In view of these considerations, we find good cause exists to waive the deadline in section 64.6060(a) of the Commission's rules for this year and further extend the deadline for filing the 2025 IPCS Annual Reports and certifications.

8. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that, pursuant to the authority contained in sections 1, 2, 4(i)-(j), 155(c), 201(b), 218, 220, 276, and 403 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 151, 152, 154(i)-(j), 155(c), 201(b), 218, 220, 276, and 403, and the authority delegated pursuant to sections 0.91, 0.201(d), 0.291, and 1.3 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 0.91, 0.201(d), 0.291, 1.3, the September 15, 2025 filing deadline for the 2025 IPCS Annual Reports IS WAIVED as described in this Order and IS EXTENDED to November 3, 2025.

¹⁴ Federal Communications Commission, Information Collection Being Submitted for Review and Approval to Office of Management and Budget, 90 Fed. Reg. 35298 (July 25, 2025).

¹⁵ 47 CFR §§ 1.3, 64.6060(a). *See also* 47 CFR §§ 0.291, 0.91.

¹⁶ 47 CFR § 1.3.

¹⁷ *Northeast Cellular Telephone Co. v. FCC*, 897 F.2d 1164, 1166 (D.C. Cir. 1990) (*Northeast Cellular*).

¹⁸ *WAIT Radio v. FCC*, 418 F.2d 1153, 1159 (D.C. Cir. 1969); *Northeast Cellular*, 897 F.2d at 1166.

¹⁹ *Northeast Cellular*, 897 F.2d at 1166.

²⁰ *August 2023 Public Notice*, 38 FCC Rcd at 6732.

²¹ *See 2025 IPCS Waiver Order* at 1, para. 1.

9. For further information concerning this proceeding, please contact Shabbir Hamid, Pricing Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, at (202) 418-2328, or Shabbir.Hamid@fcc.gov.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

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