

2025 -- H 5578

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LC002116
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

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A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- REGULATORY POWERS OF
ADMINISTRATION

Introduced By: Representatives Kazarian, Dawson, DeSimone, Voas, Alzate, Stewart,
Edwards, Morales, Furtado, and Casimiro

Date Introduced: February 26, 2025

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

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2 SECTION 1. Chapter 39-3 of the General Laws entitled "Regulatory Powers of
3 Administration" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

4 **39-3-11.4. Internet access rates for seniors.**

5 (a) For purposes of this section, "Internet" means collectively the myriad of computer and
6 telecommunications facilities, including equipment and operating software, that comprise the
7 interconnected worldwide network of networks that employ the transmission control
8 protocol/Internet protocol, or any predecessor or successor protocols, to such protocol, to
9 communicate information of all kinds by wire or radio.

10 (b) Effective January 1, 2026, providers of access to the Internet shall not increase rates for
11 persons sixty-two (62) years or older for connection services to the Internet.

12 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- REGULATORY POWERS OF
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- 1 This act would prohibit public utilities from raising the cost for access to the Internet for
- 2 senior citizens.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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