

SCS SB 651 -- COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

SPONSOR: Lager

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

This bill specifies that no cause of action will lie in any court against a communications-related service provider for any loss, damage, or injury resulting from a disruption or loss of communication services during an emergency situation, except in cases of gross negligence, recklessness, or intentional misconduct. Beginning, August 28, 2014 a telecommunications company may obtain a certification substituting telecommunications service for interconnected voice over internet protocol service.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill designates retail telecommunications businesses as competitive and allows them to be deregulated.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Lager; Century Link; Google; Verizon; AT&T; Missouri Telecommunications Industry Association; and Missouri Cable Telecommunications Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.