

**SENATE BILL NO. 2293**

Introduced by

Senator Thane

Representatives Koppang, Koppelman

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 49-21 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to customer credit in billing disputes; and to amend and reenact section  
3 49-02-01.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to public service commission jurisdiction.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 49-02-01.1 of the 1997 Supplement to the North  
6 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **49-02-01.1. Jurisdiction of commission limited as to certain utilities.** Nothing in  
8 this chapter or in chapter 49-21 authorizes the commission to make any order affecting rates,  
9 contracts, services rendered, adequacy, or sufficiency of facilities, or the rules or regulations of  
10 any public utility owned and operated by the state or by any city, county, township, or other  
11 political subdivision of the state or any public utility, that is not operated for profit, that is  
12 operated as a nonprofit, cooperative, or mutual telecommunications company or is a  
13 telecommunications company having fewer than eight thousand local exchange subscribers.  
14 However, any telecommunications utility that is operated as a nonprofit, cooperative, or mutual  
15 telecommunications company or has fewer than eight thousand local exchange subscribers is  
16 subject to sections 49-21-01.4 ~~and~~, 49-21-08, and section 2 of this Act; and is subject to  
17 subsection 6 of section 49-02-02 and sections 49-21-01.2, 49-21-01.3, 49-21-06, 49-21-07,  
18 49-21-09, and 49-21-10; regarding rates, terms, and conditions of access services or  
19 connection between facilities and transfer of telecommunications between two or more  
20 telecommunications companies. ~~Nothing in this~~ This section limits does not limit the authority  
21 of the commission under chapter 49-03.1 or sections 49-04-05 and 49-04-06.

22 **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 49-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
23 created and enacted as follows:

1           **Automatic credit.** If a customer disputes an amount billed by a telecommunications  
2 company and notifies the telecommunications company of the dispute within sixty days after  
3 receipt of the bill, the customer is entitled to full credit for the disputed amount until the dispute  
4 is resolved against the customer. The right of the customer to full credit is not affected by any  
5 delay in billing.