**DA 17-980**

**Released: October 6, 2017**

**consumer and governmental affairs bureau seeks comment on interstate telecommunications relay service advisory council petition for reconsideration of the VRS rates order**

**CG Docket Nos. 03-123, 10-51**

**Comments Date: [15 days after the date of publication in the Federal Register]**

**Reply Comments Date: [10 days after the time for filing comments has expired]**

The Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB) of the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) seeks comment on a petition filed by the Interstate Telecommunications Relay Service Advisory Council (TRS Advisory Council) on September 21, 2017, seeking reconsideration of rates established in the *2017 VRS Rate Order* to compensate video relay service (VRS) providers for an eight-month trial of skills-based routing*.*[[1]](#footnote-2) The petition requests these rates to be increased to $5.29 per conversation minute, subject to the providers’ submission of actual cost data during the trial period. In addition, the petition seeks reconsideration of the deadlines for VRS providers to notify the Commission of their intent to participate in and to commence such trial.[[2]](#footnote-3)

Pursuant to section 1.429 of the Commission’s rules, 47 CFR § 1.429, we invite interested parties to file and serve comments on the petition and reply comments on or before the dates specified above. All filings must reference CG Docket Nos. 10-51 and 03-123.

Comments may be filed using the Commission’s Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). *See* Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings, 63 FR 24121 (1998).

* Electronic Filers: Documents may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing ECFS: <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/>.
* Paper Filers: Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and one copy of each filing.
* Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail. All filings must be addressed to the Commission’s Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.
* All hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission’s Secretary must be delivered to FCC Headquarters at 445 12th St., SW, Room TW-A325, Washington, DC 20554. The filing hours are 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes and boxes must be disposed of before entering the building.
* Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9050 Junction Drive, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701.
* U.S. Postal Service first-class, Express, and Priority mail must be addressed to 445 12th Street, SW, Washington DC 20554.

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For further information, please contact Michael Scott, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, Disability Rights Office at (202) 418-1264 or e-mail at [Michael.Scott@fcc.gov](mailto:Michael.Scott@fcc.gov).

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1. Petition of Interstate Telecommunications Relay Service Advisory Council for Reconsideration, CG Docket Nos. 03-123, 10-51 (filed Sept. 21, 2017) at 6, <https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/10921132140710/Interstate%20TRS%20Advisory%20Council%20PFR%209.21.2017%20filed.pdf> (TRS Advisory Council Petition), referencing *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, 32 FCC Rcd 5891 (2017) (*2017 VRS Rate Order*). *See also* *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, Notice of Inquiry, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and Order, 32 FCC Rcd 2436, 2438-44, paras. 4-19 (2017) (*VRS Improvements Order*) (authorizing a skills-based trial for VRS calls pertaining to legal, medical, and technical computer support). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. TRS Advisory Council Petition at 8. The Commission previously directed providers to notify CGB by June 1, 2017 of their intent to participate in a skills-based trial to commence on August 1, 2017. *VRS Improvements Order*, 32 FCC Rcd at 2439-40, para. 8. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)