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**HOUSE BILL 20**

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SPECIAL SESSION, 1999**

**INTRODUCED BY**

**James G. Taylor**

**AN ACT**

**MAKING APPROPRIATIONS TO THE PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION AND  
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR A TELECOMMUNICATIONS EARNINGS  
INVESTIGATION; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:**

**Section 1. APPROPRIATION. --**

**A. Three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) is  
appropriated from the general fund to the public regulation  
commission for expenditure in fiscal years 1999 and 2000 for  
the purpose of paying salaries, expenses and consulting fees  
of technical and clerical staff engaged in the investigation  
of the earnings of telecommunications corporations as  
specified in Subsection C of this section. Any unexpended or  
unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2000  
shall revert to the general fund.**

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1           B. One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) is  
2 appropriated from the general fund to the office of the  
3 attorney general for expenditure in fiscal years 1999 and 2000  
4 for the purpose of paying salaries and expenses of staff and  
5 consultants engaged in the investigation of earnings of  
6 telecommunications corporations as specified in Subsection C  
7 of this section. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance  
8 remaining at the end of fiscal year 2000 shall revert to the  
9 general fund.

10           C. The public regulation commission and the  
11 attorney general shall use the appropriations provided by this  
12 section to investigate the earnings of telecommunications  
13 corporations having more than one hundred thousand local  
14 exchange access lines in this state and to investigate the  
15 fairness of rates charged customers of local exchange services  
16 by such telecommunications corporations. The investigation  
17 shall be concluded no later than January 1, 2000. If the  
18 public regulation commission finds that a telecommunications  
19 corporation has exceeded its allowable earnings for the years  
20 following its last rate case, the commission shall provide for  
21 the disposition of the over-earnings into rate reductions or  
22 refunds to the ratepayers of the telecommunications  
23 corporation.

24           Section 2. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public  
25 peace, health and safety that this act take effect

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immediately.