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**For Immediate Release**

## **Maryland PSC Promotes National “Lifeline Awareness Week” Program Connects Low-Income Consumers with Phone/Broadband Services**

(Baltimore, MD—September 11, 2017) – During National “Lifeline Awareness Week” (September 11-17, 2017) the Maryland Public Service Commission reminds consumers that discounted phone and broadband services are available to help residents connect to communications networks, find jobs, access health care services, connect with family and call for help in an emergency. Under the federal Lifeline program, customers who participate in or are eligible for certain public assistance and veteran programs are entitled to receive a discount on their monthly telecommunications bill.

“Access to local emergency services and community resources is vital to our low-income and elderly residents,” said Chairman W. Kevin Hughes. “The Commission wants consumers to be aware of this program that can help provide telecommunications services to those who may not be able to afford it.”

Lifeline service is available for traditional landline phones, cell phones, fixed broadband, and mobile broadband. For cell phone service, a fixed number of minutes are provided each month at a reduced price. Similarly for broadband service, a fixed amount of data usage is provided monthly at a reduced price. Consumers should contact an authorized provider for information about prices and about the terms and conditions of service. Each Lifeline service provider may offer different prices and terms, but all providers must follow national Lifeline rules ([www.lifelinesupport.org](http://www.lifelinesupport.org)).

The PSC maintains a listing of authorized Lifeline service providers in Maryland on its [website](#), which also contains additional information regarding eligibility and rules and restrictions.

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### ***About the Public Service Commission:***

*The Maryland Public Service Commission regulates electric and gas utilities, telephone companies (land lines), certain water and sewer companies, passenger motor vehicle carriers for hire (sedans, limousines, buses, Uber, Lyft), taxicab companies (in Baltimore City and County, Cumberland and Hagerstown) and bay pilot rates.*

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