

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: PETITION OF BUDGET PREPAY, INC. :
FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE : DOCKET NO. 4294
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER IN THE :
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND FOR THE :
PURPOSE OF OFFERING LIFELINE SERVICE :
TO QUALIFIED HOUSEHOLDS :

ORDER

WHEREAS, On October 14, 2011, Budget PrePay, Inc. (“Budget” or “Company”) filed with the Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) a Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) throughout its service area in the State of Rhode Island pursuant to 47 U.S.C. Section 214(e)¹ in order to provide discounted service to low income customers and receive certain subsidies from the Federal Universal Service Fund (“Petition”); and

WHEREAS, Under this pre-paid wireless telecommunications service, Budget will provide handsets to lifeline participants free of charge (only one participant per household) and will offer two discounted plans, one of which will be free of charge after the application of the Lifeline discount²; and

WHEREAS, Because it is a pre-paid service, there is no concern that customers be protected from long-distance charges as there is with landline ETC service; and

WHEREAS, Budget has indicated that it will discount its customary \$60 activation fee by \$30 and customers may either pay the \$30 up front or over a twelve-month period with no interest; and

WHEREAS, Budget has been allowed ETC status in four other states; and

¹ 47 U.S.C. 214(e) imposed statutory responsibility upon the Commission to certify telecommunications service providers as “eligible” to receive funds from the Federal Universal Service Fund.

² Budget PrePay Petition at 4, Budget PrePay’s Responses to Commission DR 1-1.

WHEREAS, Budget responded to data requests issued by the Commission; and

WHEREAS, On November 18, 2011, the Commission issued a Public Notice to Solicit Comments regarding the Petition. No comments were received; and

WHEREAS, On December 19, 2011, the Division filed a Memorandum with the Commission recommending approval of Budget's Petition on the basis that the Company had adequately met all of the Commission's requirements in the ETC Rules; and

WHEREAS, The Commission is of the opinion that Budget's petition for ETC designation is proper, complies with the federal and state requirements, and is in the best interest of ratepayers; and

Accordingly, it is hereby

(20607) ORDERED:

- 1) Budget PrePay, Inc. is hereby designated as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier throughout its service area for receiving universal service support.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON DECEMBER 21, 2011
PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED ON
JANUARY 5, 2012.

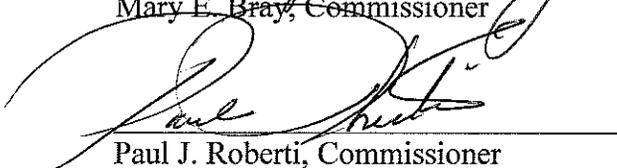
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



*Elia Germani, Chairman



Mary E. Bray, Commissioner



Paul J. Roberti, Commissioner

*Chairman Germani concurs but is unavailable for signature.

NOTICE OF RIGHT OF APPEAL PURSUANT TO R.I.G.L. SECTION 39-5-1, ANY PERSON AGGRIEVED BY A DECISION OR ORDER OF THE COMMISSION MAY, WITHIN SEVEN DAYS (7) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE ORDER, PETITION THE SUPREME COURT FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO REVIEW THE LEGALITY AND REASONABLENESS OF THE DECISION OR ORDER.