

2021 Kansas Statutes

12-2001. Granting of franchises; purposes; conditions; limitations; assessment of fees; certain provisions declared void. (a) The governing body of any city may permit any person, firm or corporation to:

- (1) Manufacture, sell and furnish artificial or natural gas light and heat; electric light, water, power or heat; or steam heat to the inhabitants;
- (2) build street railways, to be operated over and along or under the streets and public grounds of such city;
- (3) lay pipes, conduits, cables and all appliances necessary for the construction, operation of gas and electric-light or steam-heat plants;
- (4) lay pipes, conduits, cables and all appliances necessary for the construction and operation of electric railways or bus companies;
- (5) lay pipes for the operation of a water plant for the distribution or furnishing of water over, under and along the streets and alleys of such city; or
- (6) use the streets in the carrying on of any business which is not prohibited by law.

(b) If the governing body of a city permits any activity specified in subsection (a), the granting of permission to engage in the activity shall be subject to the following:

- (1) All contracts granting or giving any such original franchise, right or privilege, or extending or renewing or amending any existing grant, right, privilege or franchise, to engage in such an activity shall be made by ordinance, and not otherwise.
- (2) No contract, grant, right, privilege or franchise to engage in such an activity, now existing or hereafter granted, shall be extended for any longer period of time than 20 years from the date of such grant or extension.
- (3) No person, firm or corporation shall be granted any exclusive franchise, right or privilege whatever.
- (4) The governing body of any city, at all times during the existence of any contract, grant, privilege or franchise to engage in such an activity, shall have the right by ordinance to fix a reasonable schedule of maximum rates to be charged such city and the inhabitants thereof for gas, light and heat, electric light, power or heat, steam heat or water; the rates of fare on any street railway or bus company; or the rates charged any such city, or the inhabitants thereof, by any person, firm or corporation operating under any other franchise under this act. The governing body at no time shall fix a rate which prohibits such person, firm or corporation from earning a reasonable rate upon the fair value of the property used and useful in such public service. In fixing and establishing such fair value, the value of such franchise, contract and privilege given and granted by the city to such person, firm or corporation shall not be taken into consideration in ascertaining the reasonableness of the rates to be charged to the inhabitants of such city.
- (5) No such grant, right, privilege or franchise shall be made to any person, firm, corporation or association unless it provides for adequate compensation or consideration therefor to be paid to such city, and regardless of whether or not other or additional compensation is provided for such grantee shall pay such fixed charge as may be prescribed in the franchise ordinance. Such fixed charge may consist of a percentage of the gross receipts derived from the service permitted by the grant, right, privilege or franchise from consumers or recipients of such service located within the corporate boundaries of such city, and, in case of public utilities or common carriers situated and operated wholly or principally within such city, or principally operated for the benefit of such city or its people, from consumers or recipients located in territory immediately adjoining such city and not within the boundaries of any other incorporated city; and in such case such city shall make

and report to the governing body all such gross receipts once each month, or at such other intervals as stipulated in the franchise ordinance and pay into the treasury the amount due such city at the time the report is made. The governing body shall also have access to and the right to examine, at all reasonable times, all books, receipts, files, records and documents of any such grantee necessary to verify the correctness of such statement and to correct the same, if found to be erroneous. If such statement of gross receipts is incorrect, then such payment shall be made upon such corrected statement.

On and after the effective date of the act, any provision for compensation or consideration, included in a franchise granted pursuant to this section which is established on the basis of compensation or consideration paid by the utility under another franchise, is hereby declared to be contrary to the public policy of this state and shall be void and unenforceable. Any such provision, included in a franchise granted pursuant to this section and in force on the effective date of this act which requires payments to the city by a utility to increase by virtue of the compensation or consideration required to be paid under a franchise granted by another city to the utility's predecessor in interest, is hereby declared to be contrary to the public policy of this state and shall be void and unenforceable.

(6) No such right, privilege or franchise shall be effective until the ordinance granting the same has been adopted as provided by law.

All expense of publishing any ordinance adopted pursuant to this section shall be paid by the proposed grantee.

(7) All contracts, grants, rights, privileges or franchises for the use of the streets and alleys of such city, not herein mentioned, shall be governed by all the provisions of this act, and all amendments, extensions or enlargements of any contract, right, privilege or franchise previously granted to any person, firm or corporation for the use of the streets and alleys of such city shall be subject to all the conditions provided for in this act for the making of original grants and franchises. The provisions of this section shall not apply to railway companies for the purpose of reaching and affording railway connections and switch privileges to the owners or users of any industrial plants, or for the purpose of reaching and affording railway connections and switch privileges to any agency or institution of the state of Kansas.

(c) As used in this act:

(1) "Access line" shall mean and be limited to retail billed and collected residential lines; business lines; ISDN lines; PBX trunks and simulated exchange access lines provided by a central office based switching arrangement where all stations served by such simulated exchange access lines are used by a single customer of the provider of such arrangement. Access line may not be construed to include interoffice transport or other transmission media that do not terminate at an end user customer's premises, or to permit duplicate or multiple assessment of access line rates on the provision of a single service or on the multiple communications paths derived from a billed and collected access line. Access line shall not include the following: Wireless telecommunications services, the sale or lease of unbundled loop facilities, special access services, lines providing only data services without voice services processed by a telecommunications local exchange service provider or private line service arrangements.

(2) "Access line count" means the number of access lines serving consumers within the corporate boundaries of the city on the last day of each month.

(3) "Access line fee" means a fee determined by a city, up to a maximum as set out in this act and amendments thereto, to be used by a telecommunications local exchange service provider in calculating the amount of access line remittance.

(4) "Access line remittance" means the amount to be paid by a telecommunications local exchange service provider to a city, the total of which is calculated by multiplying the access

line fee, as determined in the city, by the number of access lines served by that telecommunications local exchange service provider within that city for each month in that calendar quarter.

(5) "Commission" means the state corporation commission.

(6) "Gross receipts" means only those receipts collected from within the corporate boundaries of the city enacting the franchise and which are derived from the following: (A) Recurring local exchange service for business and residence which includes basic exchange service, touch tone, optional calling features and measured local calls; (B) recurring local exchange access line services for pay phone lines provided by a telecommunications local exchange service provider to all pay phone service providers; (C) local directory assistance revenue; (D) line status verification/busy interrupt revenue; (E) local operator assistance revenue; and (F) nonrecurring local exchange service revenue which shall include customer service for installation of lines, reconnection of service and charge for duplicate bills. All other revenues, including, but not limited to, revenues from extended area service, the sale or lease of unbundled network elements, nonregulated services, carrier and end user access, long distance, wireless telecommunications services, lines providing only data service without voice services processed by a telecommunications local exchange service provider, private line service arrangements, internet, broadband and all other services not wholly local in nature are excluded from gross receipts. Gross receipts shall be reduced by bad debt expenses. Uncollectible and late charges shall not be included within gross receipts. If a telecommunications local exchange service provider offers additional services of a wholly local nature which if in existence on or before July 1, 2002, would have been included with the definition of gross receipts, such services shall be included from the date of the offering of such services in the city.

(7) "Local exchange service" means local switched telecommunications service within any local exchange service area approved by the state corporation commission, regardless of the medium by which the local telecommunications service is provided. The term local exchange service shall not include wireless communication services.

(8) "Telecommunications local exchange service provider" means a local exchange carrier and a telecommunications carrier as those terms are defined in K.S.A. 66-1,187, and amendments thereto, which does, or in good faith intends to, provide local exchange service. The term telecommunications local exchange service provider does not include an interexchange carrier that does not provide local exchange service, competitive access provider that does not provide local exchange service or any wireless telecommunications local exchange service provider.

(9) "Telecommunications services" means providing the means of transmission, between or among points specified by the user, of information of the user's choosing, without change in the form or content of the information as sent and received.

(d) A city may require a telecommunications local exchange service provider that intends to provide local exchange service in that city, to enter into a valid contract franchise ordinance enacted pursuant to this act. Compensation for the contract franchise ordinance shall be established pursuant to subsection (j). A contract franchise complying with the provisions of this act shall be deemed reasonable and shall be adopted by the governing body of a city absent a compelling public interest necessitated by public health, safety and welfare. A contract franchise must be competitively neutral and may not be unreasonable or discriminatory. No telecommunications contract franchise ordinance shall be denied or revoked without reasonable notice and an opportunity for a public hearing before the city governing body. A city governing body's denial or revocation of a contract franchise ordinance may be appealed to a district court.

(e) If the governing body of a city requires a contract franchise as specified in subsection

(d), the contract franchise shall be subject to the following:

(1) All contracts granting or giving any such original contract franchise, right or privilege or extending, renewing or amending any existing grant, right, privilege or franchise, to engage in such an activity shall be made by ordinance and not otherwise;

(2) no contract, grant, right, privilege or contract franchise to engage in such an activity, now existing or hereafter granted, shall be extended for any longer period of time than 20 years from the date of such grant or extension;

(3) no telecommunications local exchange service provider shall be granted any exclusive contract franchise, right or privilege whatever;

(4) no such right, privilege or contract franchise shall be effective until the ordinance granting the same has been adopted as provided by law. All expense of publishing any ordinance adopted pursuant to this section shall be paid by the proposed grantee; and

(5) no city shall have the authority or jurisdiction to regulate telecommunications local exchange service providers based upon the content, nature or type of telecommunications service or signal to be provided or the quality of service provided to customers.

(f) A franchisee shall make and report to the governing body once each quarter, or at such other intervals as stipulated in the contract franchise ordinance, the compensation collected and pay into the treasury the amount due such city at the time the report is made.

(g) A city may assess a one-time application fee to recover its costs associated with the review and approval of a contract franchise provided that such application fee reimburses the city for its reasonable, actual and verifiable costs of reviewing and approving the contract franchise. An application fee must be competitively neutral and may not be unreasonable or discriminatory.

(h) Within 90 days of the receipt of a completed application for a telecommunications contract franchise, a city shall process and submit the application and contract franchise to the city's governing body, and the governing body shall take a final vote concerning such contract franchise unless the telecommunications local exchange service provider and city agree otherwise.

(i) In considering the adoption and passage of a telecommunications contract franchise ordinance, no city shall have the authority or jurisdiction to regulate telecommunications local exchange service providers based upon the content, nature or type of telecommunications service or signal to be provided, or the quality of service provided to customers.

(j) The governing body of a city may require telecommunications local exchange service providers to collect and remit to each such city an access line fee of up to a maximum of \$2.00 per month per access line or a fee on gross receipts as described in subsection (j)(2). The access line fee shall be a maximum of \$2.25 per month per access line in 2006; a maximum of \$2.50 in 2009; a maximum of \$2.75 in 2012 and thereafter.

(1) To determine an access line remittance fee, the telecommunications local exchange service provider shall calculate and remit an amount equal to the access line fee established by a city multiplied by the access line count. Such amount shall be due not later than 45 days after the end of the remittal period. The city shall have the right to examine, upon written notice to the telecommunications local exchange service provider, no more than once per calendar year, those access line count records necessary to verify the correctness of the access line count. If the access line count is determined to be erroneous, then the telecommunications local exchange service provider shall revise the access line fees accordingly and payment shall be made upon such corrected access line count. If the city and the telecommunications local exchange service provider cannot agree on the access line count, or are in dispute concerning the amounts due under this section for the payment of access line fees, either party may seek appropriate relief in a court of competent

jurisdiction, and that court may impose all appropriate remedies, including monetary and injunctive relief and reasonable costs and attorney fees. All claims authorized in this section must be brought within three years of the date on which the disputed payment was due. The access line fee imposed under this section must be assessed in a competitively neutral manner, may not unduly impair competition, must be nondiscriminatory and must comply with state and federal law.

(2) As an alternative to the access line fee specified in subsection (j)(1), the governing body of a city may require telecommunications local exchange service providers to collect and remit to each such city a fee of up to a maximum of 5% of gross receipts as defined in this act. The telecommunications local exchange service provider shall calculate the gross receipts and multiply such receipts by the fee, up to a maximum of 5%, established by the city. The telecommunications local exchange service provider shall remit such fee to the city no more frequently than each quarter unless the telecommunications local exchange service provider agrees otherwise, and not later than 45 days after the end of the remittal period. The city shall have the right to examine, upon written notice to the telecommunications local exchange service provider, no more than once per calendar year, those records necessary to verify the correctness of the gross receipts fee. If the gross receipts fee is determined to be erroneous, then the telecommunications local exchange service provider shall revise the gross receipts fee accordingly and payment shall be made upon such corrected gross receipts fee. If the city and the telecommunications local exchange service provider cannot agree on the gross receipts fee, or are in dispute concerning the amounts due under this section for the payment of gross receipts fees, either party may seek appropriate relief in a court of competent jurisdiction, and that court may impose all appropriate remedies, including monetary and injunctive relief, reasonable costs and attorney fees. All claims authorized in this section must be brought within three years of the date on which the disputed payment was due. The gross receipts fee imposed under this section must be assessed in a competitively neutral manner, may not unduly impair competition, must be nondiscriminatory and must comply with state and federal law.

(k) Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, payment by a telecommunications local exchange service provider that complies with the terms of an unexpired franchise ordinance that applies to the provider satisfies the payment attributable to the provider required by this act.

(l) Beginning January 1, 2004, and every 36 months thereafter, a city, subject to the public notification procedures set forth in subsection (m), may elect to adopt an increased access line fee or gross receipts fee subject to the provisions and maximum fee limitations contained in this act or may choose to decline all or any portion of any increase in the access line fee.

(m) Adoption of an increased access line fee or gross receipts fee by a city shall not become effective until the following public notification procedures occur: (1) Notice of the new fee has been provided at a regular meeting of the governing body; (2) immediately thereafter, notification of the new fee shall be published in the official city paper once a week for two consecutive weeks; and (3) sixty days have passed from the date of the regular meeting of the governing body at which the new fee was proposed. If, during the period of public notification of the new fee or prior to the expiration of 60 days from the date of the regular meeting of the governing body at which the new fee was proposed, 20% of the qualified voters of such city voting for mayor, or in case no mayor is elected then the commissioner or council member receiving the highest number of votes at the last preceding city election, present a petition to the governing body asking that the new fee be submitted to popular vote, the mayor of the city shall issue a proclamation calling for an election for that purpose. Such election shall be held in conjunction with the next available general election. The

proclamation calling such election shall specifically state that such election is called for the adoption of the new fee, and the new fee shall be set out in full in the proclamation. The proclamation shall be published once each week for two consecutive weeks in the official city newspaper, and the last publication shall not be less than 30 days before the day upon which the election is held. If, at the election the majority of votes cast shall be for the new fee, the new fee shall thereupon become effective. If a majority of the votes cast at the election are against the new fee, the new fee shall not become effective and shall be void.

(n) A city may require a telecommunications local exchange service provider to collect or remit an access line fee or a gross receipts fee to such city on those access lines that have been resold to another telecommunications local exchange service provider, but in such case the city shall not collect an access line fee or gross receipts fee from the reseller telecommunications local exchange service provider and shall not require the reseller to enter into a contract franchise ordinance pursuant to subsection (d).

(o) A city may not impose the following regulations on telecommunications local exchange service providers:

- (1) Requirement that particular business offices or other telecommunications facilities be located in the city;
- (2) requirement for filing reports and documents that are not reasonably related to the collection of compensation pursuant to this act;
- (3) requirement for inspection of the business records of a telecommunications local exchange service provider except to the extent necessary to conduct the review of the records related to the access line count or gross receipts fee as provided for in this act;
- (4) requirement for city approval of transfers of ownership or control of the business or assets of a telecommunications local exchange service provider except that a city may require that such provider maintain current point of contact information and provide notice of a transfer within a reasonable time; and
- (5) requirement concerning the provisioning or quality of services, facilities, equipment or goods in-kind for use by the city, political subdivision or any other telecommunications local exchange service provider or public utility.

(p) Information provided to municipalities and political subdivisions under this act shall be governed by confidentiality procedures in compliance with K.S.A. 45-215 and 66-1220a et seq., and amendments thereto.

(q) Except as otherwise provided, this act does not affect the validity of a franchise agreement or contract ordinance with a telecommunications local exchange service provider so long as the franchise agreement or contract ordinance does not include a linear foot charge and/or a minimum fee, was enacted prior to the effective date of this act, and was agreed to by the telecommunications local exchange service provider. Under such circumstances, a city may continue to enforce a previously enacted franchise agreement or contract ordinance and to collect franchise fees and other charges under that franchise agreement or contract ordinance until the date on which the agreement or ordinance expires by its own terms or is terminated in accordance with the terms of this act.

Notwithstanding any other provision hereof, where such a franchise agreement or contract ordinance exists between a city and a telecommunications local exchange service provider prior to the effective date of this act, during the term of such existing franchise agreement or contract ordinance the city must offer to new applicants franchise agreements or contract franchises whose terms and conditions are as a whole competitively neutral and nondiscriminatory, as compared to such existing agreement.

(r) Without prejudice to a telecommunications local exchange service provider's other rights and authorities, a telecommunications local exchange service provider which is assessed, collects and remits an application fee, access line fee or gross receipts fee assessed

by a city shall add to its end-user customer's bill, statement or invoice a surcharge equal to the pro rata share of any such fees.

(s) Subsections (c) through (r) apply only to telecommunications local exchange service providers.

(t) (1) Except as further provided in paragraph (2), a city:

(A) Shall not require a wireless services provider or a wireless infrastructure provider to enter into a franchise, franchise agreement, franchise ordinance, contract franchise or contract franchise ordinance for the provision of wireless services;

(B) may govern the use of the public right-of-way by a wireless services provider or a wireless infrastructure provider by requiring a small cell facility deployment agreement or a master license agreement, through permitting requirements or municipal ordinances or codes, or any combination thereof, in a manner consistent with federal and state law; and

(C) may assess a wireless services provider or a wireless infrastructure provider a fixed right-of-way access fee for each small cell facility that the provider deploys that requires use of the city's public right-of-way, but such fee shall not be based on such provider's gross receipts derived from services provided within the city's corporate limits.

(2) The provisions of paragraph (1) shall only apply to a wireless infrastructure provider to the extent of such provider's operations and services as a provider for the deployment of small cell facilities in the city's public right-of-way that are used for the provision of wireless services. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to apply to such provider's other operations and services as a utility or otherwise or have any effect on any franchise that is related to such other operations and services.

(3) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as prohibiting a city from requiring a telecommunications local exchange service provider to enter into a valid contract franchise ordinance pursuant to this section.

(4) For the purposes of this subsection:

(A) The terms "authority," "public right-of-way," "small cell facility," "utility pole," "wireless infrastructure provider," "wireless services" and "wireless services provider" shall have the same meaning as provided in K.S.A. 66-2019, and amendments thereto; and

(B) "small cell facility deployment agreement" means an agreement between a wireless services provider or wireless infrastructure provider and an authority for the deployment of small cell facilities on or adjacent to existing, modified, replacement or new utility poles within the public right-of-way pursuant to K.S.A. 66-2019, and amendments thereto, and federal law. A "small cell facility deployment agreement" is not a franchise, franchise agreement, franchise ordinance, contract franchise or contract franchise ordinance.

History: L. 1945, ch. 98, § 1; L. 1949, ch. 119, § 1; L. 1953, ch. 70, § 1; L. 1976, ch. 83, § 1; L. 1981, ch. 173, § 28; L. 1985, ch. 71, § 2; L. 2002, ch. 32, § 1; L. 2019, ch. 32, § 1; July 1.