



OVERVIEW

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The Status of Local Telephone Competition in South Carolina 2022 Annual Report

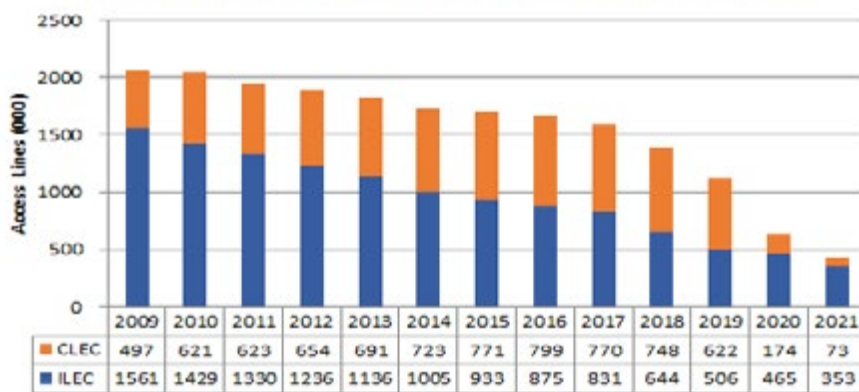
Introduction

S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-280 (G)(3) requires the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) to compile information to monitor the status of local telephone competition in South Carolina. This information must be compiled and made available prior to May 15th of each year. To compile this information, ORS requires all local exchange carriers (as defined in S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-10(12) to report annually to the ORS the total number of access lines providing local exchange telecommunications services to an end user in South Carolina. Additionally, the ORS must maintain a copy of all written complaints received regarding the impact broadband services may be having on the competitive local exchange (CLEC) market. The ORS has not received a specific written complaint related to how broadband service has impacted the CLEC market.

Local Exchange Carriers

In 2022, Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILEC) provided 352,581 access lines to businesses and residences in the state. CLECs provided approximately 73,547 access lines in the state. Chart 1 illustrates the gradual decline in total wired access lines occurring since 2009 as more consumers migrate to services provided by Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) providers and wireless carriers.

Chart 1: Local Telephone Connections in South Carolina



Source: Local Telephone Competition Status as of Dec. 31, 2021, Issued by Industry Analysis and Technology Division of the FCC Wireline Competition Bureau, 2020 Annual Reports and 2021 USF

VoIP Providers

As of December 2022, the ORS recorded 107 registered VoIP providers serving subscribers in South Carolina. Some of these VoIP providers are certified CLECs, and some are uncertified providers of the VoIP telephone service.

Wireless Carriers

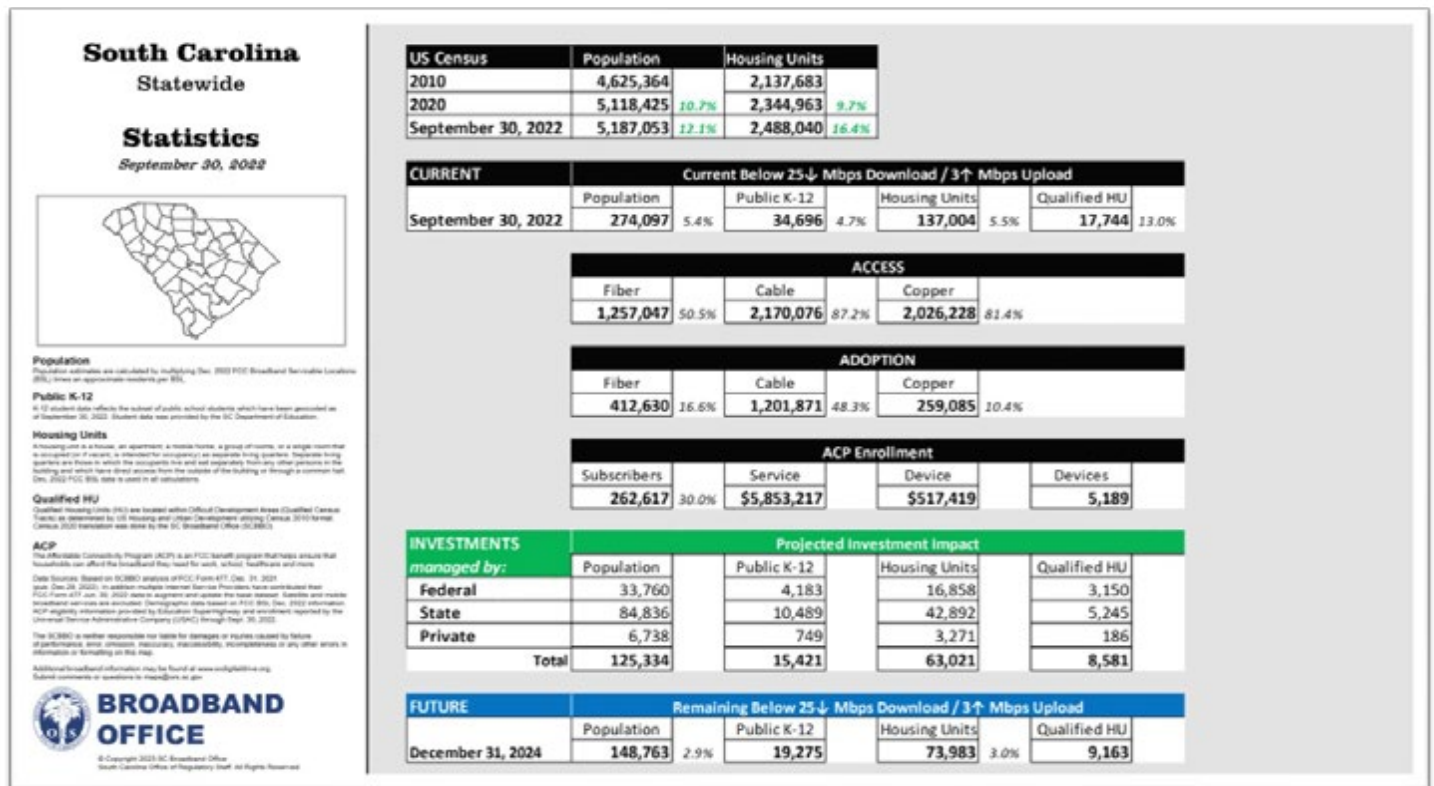
As of December 2022, 3 facilities based, mobile wireless providers and another 42 registered wireless resellers were operating in South Carolina. The wireless companies provided service to 5 million wireless subscribers as reported to the ORS.

ORS Consumer Services

The ORS tracks a wide range of consumer complaints related to regulated and non-regulated telecommunications services. By far, the largest area of complaints in telecommunications relates to non-regulated aspects of the business (82%), Service quality (12%), billing (6%).

Broadband Statistics

In July of 2021, the S.C. Broadband Office was created to advance the deployment of those facilities necessary for South Carolinians to obtain high-speed internet service. The attached chart reflects information available as of September 30, 2022. This data will be updated as federal, state and private investments continue to be made in South Carolina.



Conclusion

In conclusion, wireless and broadband infrastructure has advanced and is continuing to be deployed. The Local Competition Report is no longer necessary and ORS recommends that S.C. Code Section 58-9-280 (G)(3) be deleted.

