



# Louisiana Public Service Commission

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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For Immediate Release

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## **LPSC PROVIDES OVERLAY AREA CODE RELIEF FOR 318 AREA CODE**

Baton Rouge - At its April 26, 2023 Business and Executive Session, the Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC) acted to ensure that telephone numbers continue to be available to meet the demand in the geographical region served by the 318 area code by approving area code relief (called an overlay) that will provide additional numbering resources while minimizing customer inconvenience. The new area code to overlay the 318 area code is 457.

An area code overlay adds an additional area code to the geographic region served by the 318 area code. Existing customers will keep their current telephone numbers, but new customers, or requests for additional lines, will be assigned the new overlay once it is activated. The overlay relief simply requires customers to start using 10-digit dialing – the area code plus the seven-digit phone number- to make local calls.

Based on the forecasts of the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA), 318 area code is projected to run out of new numbers in early 2026. Phone numbers in Louisiana, and throughout the United States, are governed by NANPA, which forecasted the need for 318 area code relief in January 2023. The LPSC opened a docket to review NANPA's forecast, proposed a recommendation that included the overlay, requested comments from both the public and the telecommunications industry on the proposed overlay, and ultimately voted to approve the overlay.

The 318 area code serves the parishes of: Allen, Avoyelles, Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Caldwell, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, De Soto, East Carroll, Franklin, Grant, Jackson, La Salle, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Rapides, Red River, Richland, Sabine, Tensas, Union, Vernon, Webster, West Carroll, and Winn.

For additional information on the docket, visit <https://lpscpubvalence.lpsc.louisiana.gov/portal/lpsc-web-portal> and search “36659” in the “Docket Number” box.

The Louisiana Public Service Commission is a constitutionally created independent regulatory agency dedicated to serving the public interest by assuring safe, reliable, and reasonably priced services from public utilities and motor carriers. The LPSC, reaffirmed in Article IV, Section 21 of the 1974 Constitution of the State of Louisiana, consists of five elected Commissioners who serve overlapping terms of six years. The Commission has jurisdiction over certain publicly-owned utilities providing electric, water, wastewater, natural gas, and telecommunication services, as well as all the electric cooperatives in Louisiana. It does not regulate Entergy New Orleans, which is regulated by the New Orleans City Council under its Home Rule Charter.

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