



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND CABLE

D.T.C. 24-4

June 6, 2025

In the Matter of GO MD USA, LLC d/b/a GO MD USA for Designation as an Eligible
Telecommunications Carrier in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

I. INTRODUCTION AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On July 31, 2024, GO MD USA, LLC (“GO MD” or “Company”) filed a petition with the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable (“Department”) for approval of designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the limited purpose of providing Lifeline Service for low-income consumers. The Department issued its First Set of Information Requests on September 16, 2024, with November 15, 2024, as the deadline for GO MD to respond to the Information Requests.

The Department neither received a response, nor an extension request. In February 2025, the Department contacted GO MD’s counsel Michael Campbell (“Campbell”) given that the answers to the Information Requests were now approximately three months past due. Campbell informed the Department that he no longer represented GO MD and had withdrawn as GO MD’s counsel approximately two months earlier. Campbell referred the Department to Attorney Mark Schirmer (“Schirmer”) who was apparently acting as GO MD’s General Counsel.

The Department informed Schirmer that it recommended GO MD withdraw its application if it could not substantively respond to the information requests. Schirmer insisted that he wished to proceed with GO MD’s application. After speaking via telephone, Hearing Officer William

Bendetson (“Bendetson”) e-mailed Schirmer to inform him on February 13, 2025 that he needed to file a Notice of Appearance and request a 90-day extension. After speaking again via telephone, Attorney Schirmer claimed he could not find the e-mail and explained he was overwhelmed with ETC applications in many states.

Bendetson forwarded the February 13, 2025 e-mail to Schirmer on February 24, 2025 and again on March 3, 2025. Schirmer responded on March 4, 2025 to inquire how he should file a motion and Notice of Appearance. Bendetson informed Schirmer via telephone and e-mail on March 5, 2025 regarding how to file these documents. Bendetson specifically directed Schirmer where to locate the service list in the Department’s online docket.

As of June 5, 2025, the Department still has not received Schirmer’s Notice of Appearance or any extension request to the Information Requests that the Department issued on September 16, 2024 – more than nine months previously. As GO MD has failed to provide the Department with information necessary to evaluate GO MD’s petition for ETC status, the Department is unable to rule on the merits of GO MD’s petition. Further, GO MD’s failure to respond to information requests after repeated outreach cast doubt on the Company’s ability to comply with the Federal and state requirements imposed on approved ETCs.

II. ORDER

After notice, opportunity to respond, and due consideration, it is

ORDERED that GO MD’s petition is dismissed, without prejudice, due to GO MD’s lack of response to the Departments information requests. GO MD may refile its petition at a later date if the Company is prepared to be evaluated through the Department’s typical process. Docket No. 24-4 is hereby closed.

By Order of the Department,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Charles". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Karen Charles,
Commissioner

RIGHT OF APPEAL

Pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 5 and G.L. c. 166A, § 2, an appeal as to matters of law from any final decision, order or ruling of the Department may be taken to the Supreme Judicial Court for the County of Suffolk by an aggrieved party in interest by the filing of a written petition asking that the Order of the Department be modified or set aside in whole or in part. Such petition for appeal shall be filed with the Secretary of the Department within twenty (20) days after the date of service of the decision, order or ruling of the Department, or within such further time as the Department may allow upon request filed prior to the expiration of the twenty (20) days after the date of service of said decision, order or ruling. Within ten (10) days after such petition has been filed, the appealing party shall enter the appeal in the Supreme Judicial Court of the County of Suffolk by filing a copy thereof with the Clerk of said Court. Appeals of Department Orders on basic service tier cable rates, associated equipment, or whether a franchising authority has acted consistently with the federal Cable Act may also be brought pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 76.944.