

SENATE BILL 343

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4r1354
CF 4r1631

By: **Senator Middleton**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2014

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Wireless Landline Telephone Service – Prohibition and Study**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain telephone companies from replacing landline
4 or wireline telephone service to a customer with certain wireless telephone
5 service; prohibiting the Public Service Commission from authorizing certain
6 telephone companies to replace landline or wireline telephone service to a
7 customer with wireless telephone service; requiring the Commission to report
8 its findings and recommendations to certain committees of the General
9 Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act;
10 and generally relating to the replacement of landline or wireline telephone
11 service with wireless telephone service.

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 MARYLAND, That:

14 (a) A telephone company that provides local exchange access service using its
15 own plant may not replace landline or wireline telephone service to a customer with
16 wireless telephone service.

17 (b) The Public Service Commission may not authorize a telephone company
18 that provides local exchange access service using its own plant to replace landline or
19 wireline telephone service to a customer with wireless telephone service.

20 (c) On or before December 31, 2014, the Public Service Commission shall
21 report to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Economic Matters Committee,
22 in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, on its findings and
23 recommendations regarding:

24 (1) whether and to what extent the replacement of landline or wireline
25 service with wireless service affects or has an impact on:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (i) the ability of the telephone company to provide:
- 2 1. service quality and reliability;
- 3 2. customer access to the Internet through broadband
4 digital subscriber line service; and
- 5 3. customer access to alarm, facsimile, and medical alert
6 services; and
- 7 (ii) the ability of other service providers, including alarm
8 monitoring companies and home health monitoring equipment providers, to provide
9 services to individuals and businesses;
- 10 (2) what advantages and disadvantages arise as a result of the use of
11 wireless service during extreme weather conditions, power outages, and other
12 emergencies; and
- 13 (3) whether and to what extent customers whose service has been
14 replaced have requested to switch back to landline or wireline service.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
16 June 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31,
17 2015, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
18 abrogated and of no further force and effect.