
By: Delegate Owings

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 1996

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Utility Regulation - Telephone Companies - Directory Assistance**

3 FOR the purpose of allowing the Public Service Commission to exclude charges for a
4 number of calls to directory assistance determined by the Commission for certain
5 customers; allowing the Commission to adjust certain telephone rates based on
6 exclusion of a number of calls to directory assistance determined by the
7 Commission; and generally relating to regulation of telephone company rates and
8 charges.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article 78 - Public Service Commission Law
11 Section 68(b)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (1995 Replacement Volume)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article 78 - Public Service Commission Law**

17 68.

18 (b) (1) The Commission may [not] authorize telephone company charges to be
19 [levied] EXCLUDED for directory assistance calls made by residential customers [upon
20 the first 6] A FIXED NUMBER OF calls made to directory assistance from each residential
21 service per monthly billing cycle.

22 (2) In order to determine just and reasonable rates for residential telephone
23 service, the Commission [shall] MAY adjust the residential telephone rates of a
24 telephone company that it considers appropriate to provide the same net operating
25 income that the telephone company would realize if [no] charges were [levied on the
26 first 12] EXCLUDED FOR A FIXED NUMBER OF calls made to directory assistance
27 [under paragraph (1) of this subsection].

28 (3) The Commission may not authorize telephone company charges to be
29 levied for directory assistance upon any person who suffers from a physical or visual
30 handicap that precludes the use of a telephone directory.

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1 (4) The Commission may provide other exemptions that are just and
2 reasonable.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
4 October 1, 1996.