

HOUSE BILL 822

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1998 Regular Session
8lr2440
CF 8lr2320

By: **Delegate C. Davis**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1998

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Local Collect Calls - Rate Disclosure**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring certain telephone companies that offer certain local
4 collect calling services to disclose certain rates to certain persons at certain
5 times; requiring certain telephone companies to disclose certain rates on pay
6 telephones; providing that a violation of this Act is an unfair or deceptive trade
7 practice subject to certain penalties; and generally relating to collect calling and
8 telephone local exchange service.

9 BY adding to

10 Article - Public Utility Companies

11 Section 8-205

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (As enacted by Chapter _____ (S.B. 1) of the Acts of the General Assembly of

14 1998)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

16 Article - Commercial Law

17 Section 13-301(14)(xviii)

18 Annotated Code of Maryland

19 (1990 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

20 BY adding to

21 Article - Commercial Law

22 Section 13-301(14)(xx)

23 Annotated Code of Maryland

24 (1990 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

25 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF

26 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

1

Article - Public Utility Companies

2 8-205.

3 (A) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO A TELEPHONE COMPANY THAT PROVIDES
4 LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE IN THE STATE.

5 (B) A TELEPHONE COMPANY THAT PROVIDES COLLECT CALLING AS PART OF
6 LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE SHALL:

7 (1) AT THE TIME A MAKER INITIATES A LOCAL COLLECT CALL, DISCLOSE
8 TO THE MAKER THE RATE TO BE CHARGED FOR THE CALL; AND

9 (2) BEFORE THE RECIPIENT ACCEPTS THE CALL, DISCLOSE TO THE
10 RECIPIENT THE RATE TO BE CHARGED FOR THE CALL.

11 (C) A TELEPHONE COMPANY THAT OFFERS LOCAL COLLECT CALLING
12 SERVICE FROM A PAY TELEPHONE SHALL DISCLOSE THE RATE CHARGED FOR A
13 LOCAL COLLECT CALL FROM THE PAY TELEPHONE IN WRITING ON THE BODY OF THE
14 PAY TELEPHONE.

15 (D) IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER PENALTY AUTHORIZED BY LAW, A VIOLATION
16 OF THIS SECTION IS PUNISHABLE AS AN UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICE
17 UNDER TITLE 13 OF THE COMMERCIAL LAW ARTICLE.

18

Article - Commercial Law

19 13-301.

20 Unfair or deceptive trade practices include any:

21 (14) Violation of a provision of:

22 (xviii) Title 14, Subtitle 25 of this article, the Hearing Aid Sales Act;

23 [or]

24 (XX) § 8-205 OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES ARTICLE; OR

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 October 1, 1998.