

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 663 (Senator McFadden)

Finance

Local Collect Calls - Rate Disclosure

This bill requires a telephone company that provides collect calling as part of local exchange service to: (1) disclose to the maker the rate to be charged for the call at the time a maker initiates a local collect call; and (2) disclose to the recipient the rate to be charged for the call before the recipient accepts the call. The bill requires a telephone company that offers local collect calling service from a pay telephone to disclose the rate charged for a local collect call from the pay telephone in writing on the body of the pay telephone. A violation of the bill's provisions constitutes an unfair or deceptive trade practice.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Assuming that the Consumer Protection Division receives fewer than 50 calls as a result of this bill, any additional workload could be handled with existing budgeted resources. Any cost recovery by the Attorney General resulting from actions brought under the unfair and deceptive trade practices recovery provisions is indeterminate. The bill will not affect the finances of the Public Service Commission.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Information Sources: Attorney General's Office (Consumer Protection Division); Public Service Commission

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 4, 1998

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