

**Department of Legislative Services**

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

**FISCAL NOTE****Revised**

Senate Bill 79 (Senator Green)

Finance

Environmental Matters

---

**Telephone Solicitation - Caller Identification Blocking**

---

This bill prohibits a person engaged in “telephone solicitation” from blocking or otherwise preventing or controlling the transmission of information that identifies the solicitor to the recipient of the call. Violators are subject to a fine of \$1,000 for a first offense and \$5,000 for each subsequent offense. The bill exempts units of federal, state, or local government.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential increase in general fund revenues due to the bill’s penalty provisions. No effect on expenditures.

**Local Effect:** Potential increase in revenues due to the bill’s penalty provisions. No effect on expenditures.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The use of automated dialing, push button, or tone-activated address signaling systems with prerecorded messages for telephone solicitation is prohibited. No provision prohibits telephone solicitors from blocking caller I.D. or other means of identifying the solicitor.

**Background:** Of the neighboring jurisdictions surveyed, Delaware, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, none has enacted legislation prohibiting telephone solicitors from blocking caller I.D.

**State Revenues:** General fund revenues could increase minimally under the bill's monetary penalty provisions for those cases heard in the District Court.

**Local Revenues:** Revenues could increase minimally under the bill's monetary penalty provisions for those cases heard in the circuit courts.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** An identical bill was introduced in the 2000 session as SB 18. SB 18 received an unfavorable report from the Senate Finance Committee.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Office of the Attorney General, Public Service Commission, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader – January 19, 2001  
ncs/jr Revised – Enrolled Bill – April 12, 2001

---

Analysis by: Ryan Wilson

Direct Inquires to:  
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510