

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 13 (Delegate Stern)
Environmental Matters

Wireless Telecommunications Service - Definitions and Consumer Protection

This bill requires a wireless telecommunications service provider to allow a customer to return a wireless telephone and terminate the contract with the service provider without penalty if the customer: (1) does so within 30 days after executing the contract; and (2) believes either the service plan coverage or the voice quality does not meet the advertised standards for the plan to which the contract is applicable. If a consumer terminates a service plan, the service provider must refund to the consumer: (1) all deposits made to the provider; and (2) the prorated unused portion of any prepaid service charges made by the customer. The bill excludes its enforcement from the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Commission.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would not directly affect governmental finances or operations.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Contracts between wireless telecommunications services providers and their customers are not regulated by the State and are generally governed by the common law of contracts.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Public Service Commission, Office of People's Counsel, Office of the Attorney General (Consumer Protection Division) Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2002
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