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By: **Delegates Morhaim, Cardin, and Zirkin**  
Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2004  
Assigned to: Economic Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Telephone Companies - Billing for Unaffiliated Entity**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a telephone company from including a certain charge  
4 on behalf of an unaffiliated entity without a customer's prior authorization; and  
5 generally relating to charges imposed by a telephone company on behalf of an  
6 unaffiliated entity.

7 BY adding to  
8 Article - Public Utility Companies  
9 Section 8-206  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (1998 Volume and 2003 Supplement)

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

14 **Article - Public Utility Companies**

15 8-206.

16 WITHOUT THE CUSTOMER'S PRIOR AUTHORIZATION, A TELEPHONE COMPANY  
17 MAY NOT INCLUDE ON A CUSTOMER'S BILL A CHARGE ON BEHALF OF AN  
18 UNAFFILIATED ENTITY FOR A SERVICE RENDERED TO THE CUSTOMER.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
20 October 1, 2004.