
By: **Delegate Doory**

Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2004

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Telecommunications Service - Charges for Directory Assistance**

3 FOR the purpose of specifying that the Public Service Commission may not authorize
4 telephone company charges to be levied for directory assistance calls made by
5 residential customers on the first two calls made to directory assistance from
6 each residential service per monthly billing cycle for telephone numbers to
7 destinations inside or outside of the local service area of the calling station.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article - Public Utility Companies
10 Section 8-202
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1998 Volume and 2003 Supplement)

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

15 **Article - Public Utility Companies**

16 8-202.

17 (a) (1) The Commission may not authorize telephone company charges to be
18 levied for directory assistance calls made by residential customers on the first two
19 calls made to directory assistance from each residential service per monthly billing
20 cycle FOR TELEPHONE NUMBERS TO DESTINATIONS INSIDE OR OUTSIDE OF THE
21 LOCAL SERVICE AREA OF THE CALLING STATION.

22 (2) The Commission may authorize charges on other directory assistance
23 calls if the Commission finds, after notice and evidentiary hearing, that the charges:

24 (i) protect consumers by providing affordable and reasonably
25 priced directory assistance service;

26 (ii) encourage the development of competition; and

27 (iii) are in the public interest.

1 (b) The Commission may not authorize telephone company charges to be
2 levied for directory assistance on an individual who suffers from a physical or visual
3 disability that precludes the use of a telephone directory.

4 (c) The Commission may provide other exemptions from telephone company
5 charges to be levied for directory assistance if the exemptions are just and reasonable.

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