

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 141 (Delegate Doory)
Economic Matters

Telecommunications Service - Charges for Directory Assistance

This bill provides that the existing prohibition on the Public Service Commission (PSC) authorizing a charge for more than two directory assistance calls in a month applies regardless of whether the destination is in or outside of the caller's local service area. The bill expands free directory calls to include interstate numbers.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would not materially affect State government operations.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: PSC is not permitted to authorize a telephone company to charge residential customers for the first two calls made to directory assistance in each billing cycle. Current law does not specify any difference between numbers within or outside of the local service area of the calling station.

PSC requires telecommunication providers to provide six free local and/or intrastate directory assistance calls monthly. Telecommunication providers are required to petition PSC if they wish to provide only the statutory minimum of two. No provider has petitioned the commission to provide fewer than six free directory assistance calls per month.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Public Service Commission, Office of People's Counsel,
Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 9, 2004
ncs/hlb

Analysis by: Daniel P. Tompkins

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510