

SENATE BILL 142

C5
HB 677/12 – ECM

3lr0672

By: **Senators Pugh, Benson, Forehand, Garagiola, Glassman, Kelley, Mathias,
McFadden, Montgomery, Muse, and Ramirez**

Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2013

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Utilities – Telephone Service – Charges for Directory Assistance**

3 FOR the purpose of specifying that certain residential customers are entitled to only a
4 certain number of directory assistance calls each month without charge;
5 requiring the Public Service Commission to approve other charges for directory
6 assistance, subject to a certain exception; repealing a provision that authorizes
7 the Commission to establish additional exemptions from directory assistance
8 charges; and generally relating to telephone service and directory assistance.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Public Utilities
11 Section 8–202
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Public Utilities**

17 8–202.

18 (a) (1) The Commission may not authorize telephone company charges to
19 be levied for directory assistance calls made by residential customers on the first two
20 calls made to directory assistance from each residential service per monthly billing
21 cycle.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) [The] **SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE**
2 Commission [may] **SHALL** authorize charges on other directory assistance calls [if the
3 Commission finds, after notice and evidentiary hearing, that the charges:

4 (i) protect consumers by providing affordable and reasonably
5 priced directory assistance service;

6 (ii) encourage the development of competition; and

7 (iii) are in the public interest].

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

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

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 October 1, 2013.