

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 943
Economic Matters

(Delegate Saab, *et al.*)

Finance

Telephone Companies - Unpublished Telephone Number - One-Time Charge

This bill prohibits a telephone company from assessing a charge more than one time to keep a customer's number unpublished. A telephone company may assess the one-time charge each time a customer changes telephone numbers.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect local government finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: There is no prohibition against multiple charges for nonpublished telephone service. A telephone company is not required to distribute a telephone directory to an address in the State unless the property owner or an occupant requests the telephone directory.

Background: Nonpublished telephone service allows a customer to prevent a telephone company from publishing a telephone number in a directory. There is usually a monthly fee associated with the service. According to Verizon's product guide, the charge for nonpublished telephone service is generally \$4.50 per month, although some exclusions apply. Nonpublished service is distinct from nonlisted service, which prevents a telephone company from listing a telephone number under directory assistance-type services such as 411.

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 19, 2018
md/lgc Third Reader - March 17, 2018

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