

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 846
Finance

(Senator Hettleman)

Business Regulation - Cellular Phone Carriers - Service Contract Requirement

This bill requires a cellular phone carrier that offers a service contract for cellular phone services to include an option in the service contract that allows more than one individual who is a customer of record to alter, modify, or cancel the service contract without the agreement of the other customers of record if all of the customers of record agree in writing to the option on execution of the service contract.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Wireless or cellular telecommunications services, as well as Voice-over-Internet Protocol services and international and interstate telephone services, are not regulated by the Public Service Commission. Cellular telephone companies are specifically excluded from the definition of a “telephone company” under the Public Utilities Article. The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission licenses cellular telephone companies, while the Federal Trade Commission handles actions for deceptive marketing or fraudulent investment schemes.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Office of the Attorney General (Consumer Protection Division); Maryland Department of Labor; Public Service Commission; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 26, 2025
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