

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2025 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader - Revised**

Senate Bill 846  
Finance

(Senator Hettleman)

Economic Matters

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**Business Regulation - Cellular Phone Carriers - Authorized Users**

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This bill requires a cellular phone carrier to allow (1) the customer of record who is responsible for payment on an account to designate other individuals as authorized users on the account and (2) an individual designated as an authorized user on an account to purchase services or devices or to take additional action under any service contract connected to the account (to the extent that the authorization extends to the action).

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**Fiscal Summary**

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

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**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.

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## **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  
rh/mcr                              Third Reader - March 24, 2025  
   Revised - Amendment(s) - March 24, 2025

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