

VAUGHN STEWART
Legislative District 19
Montgomery County

Environment and Transportation
Committee

Subcommittees

Environment

Land Use and Ethics



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 220
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3528 • 301-858-3528
800-492-7122 Ext. 3528
Vaughn.Stewart@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of HB 1228
Testimony by Delegate Vaughn Stewart
March 27, 2024 • Senate Finance Committee

What the bill does:

HB 1228 is a clean-up bill to last year's Stop the Spam Calls Act (2023 HB 37), which took steps to protect our constituents from both annoyances and fraud by requiring telemarketers to:

- Obtain express written consent from consumers prior to making solicitations using robocalls or autodialers;
- Transmit the originating phone number and caller ID information;
- Refrain from using software to alter the caller's voice;
- Decrease calling hours to 8am through 8pm; and
- Limit calls to one consumer to three in a 24-hour period.

The bill exempted isolated transactions, religious institutions, charities, political campaigns, and educational institutions.

The Stop the Spam Calls Act went into effect on January 1, 2024.

With amendments, HB 1228 makes three important corrections to the Stop the Spam Calls Act:

1. Creates an additional exemption for non-commercial telephone solicitations for the purpose of public opinion research. This includes surveys, canvasses, and polls.
2. Makes it easier to hold telemarketers accountable for violations and for consumers who have their rights violated to receive damages.
3. Clarifies that the requirements of the bill may not be waived by an agreement. For example, under this provision, a company would be prohibited from including a provision in a "terms and conditions" agreement stating that an individual who signs the agreement is waiving their right to not be called after 8pm or more than three times in one day.

Why the committee should vote favorably:

HB 1228 received unanimous support from the Environment & Transportation Committee and from the House of Delegates. The bill will continue our work to protect our constituents from annoying, and often harmful, calls. It is time to take action against this threat and provide our constituents - especially our seniors - with the protection they need. I urge a favorable report.