

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 2526

To prohibit any charges on telephone bills for calls to 800 numbers.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 6 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 12), 1994

Mr. HARKIN (for himself and Mr. SIMON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To prohibit any charges on telephone bills for calls to 800 numbers.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Reforms required by the Telephone Disclo-
6 sure and Dispute Resolution Act (Public Law 102-
7 556) have improved the reputation of the pay-per-
8 call industry and resulted in regulations that have
9 reduced the incidence of misleading practices that
10 are harmful to the public interest.

1 (2) Among the successful reforms is a prohibi-
2 tion on charges being assessed for calls to 800 tele-
3 phone numbers or other telephone numbers adver-
4 tised or widely understood to be toll free.

5 (3) Nevertheless, certain interstate pay-per-call
6 businesses are taking advantage of an exception in
7 the prohibition on charging for information conveyed
8 during a call to a “toll-free” number to continue to
9 engage in misleading practices. These practices are
10 not in compliance with the intent of Congress in
11 passing the Telephone Disclosure and Dispute Reso-
12 lution Act.

13 (4) Therefore, it is necessary for Congress to
14 clarify that its intent is that charges for information
15 provided during a call to an 800 number or other
16 number widely advertised and understood to be toll
17 free shall not, under any circumstances, be included
18 or transmitted with a bill for telephone services.

19 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO THE COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF**
20 **1934.**

21 (a) AMENDMENT.—Section 228(c)(6)(C) of the Com-
22 munications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 228(c)(6)(C)) is
23 amended by inserting before the semicolon the following:
24 “, except that nothing in this paragraph shall permit the
25 calling party to be charged for the information or the call

1 by means of a charge included on, or transmitted with,
2 a bill for telephone exchange service or telephone toll serv-
3 ice''.

4 (b) REGULATIONS.—The Federal Communications
5 Commission shall revise its regulations to comply with the
6 amendment made by subsection (a) of this section within
7 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

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