

3729

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

February 13, 2013

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Introduced by Sen. SERRANO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Energy and Telecommunications

AN ACT to amend the public service law, in relation to limiting certain charging practices by companies that provide prepaid telephone calling cards and increasing fines for violations of limitation requirements

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. Section 92-f of the public service law is amended by adding  
2     a new subdivision 4-a to read as follows:  
3     4-A. NO COMPANY THAT PROVIDES PREPAID CALLING SERVICES THROUGH PREPAID  
4     CALLING CARDS SHALL:  
5     A. CALCULATE USAGE CHARGES BY ROUNDING UP BEYOND THE NEXT MINUTE FOR  
6     TELEPHONE PHONE CALLS;  
7     B. CHARGE MINUTES FOR UNCONNECTED TELEPHONE PHONE CALLS, INCLUDING  
8     CALLS THAT ARE DROPPED OR TO WHICH THERE IS NO ANSWER OR A BUSY SIGNAL;  
9     C. PUBLICIZE OR DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENTS STATING THAT THERE IS NO  
10    CONNECTION FEE ASSOCIATED WITH A PLAN OR CALLING CARD IF THERE IS A  
11    DISCONNECTION FEE ASSOCIATED WITH THE PLAN OR CALLING CARD.  
12    S 2. Subdivision 8 of section 92-f of the public service law, as  
13    added by chapter 651 of the laws of 1999, is amended to read as follows:  
14    8. Enforcement. The commission shall have the power, consistent with  
15    federal law, to assess a penalty not to exceed [one] FIVE thousand  
16    dollars against any company that provides prepaid calling cards or  
17    services that knowingly fails or neglects to comply with any provision  
18    of this section or any regulation or order of the commission implement-  
19    ing or enforcing the provisions of this section FOR A FIRST VIOLATION  
20    AND TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION. All  
21    moneys recovered from any administrative penalty shall be paid into the  
22    state treasury to the credit of the general fund.  
23    S 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day  
24    after it shall have become a law.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

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