

5004

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

February 10, 2015

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Introduced by M. of A. ORTIZ -- read once and referred to the Committee  
on Consumer Affairs and Protection

AN ACT to amend the public service law, in relation to requiring disclosure terms relating to prepaid calling cards to be provided in languages other than English and increasing fines for violations of disclosure 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 3-a to read as follows:  
3     3-A. A. IF A LANGUAGE OR LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH IS USED ON A  
4 PREPAID TELEPHONE CALLING CARD, ITS PACKAGING, OR IN POINT OF SALE  
5 ADVERTISING, OR PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL RELATING TO A PREPAID CALLING CARD  
6 OR PREPAID TELEPHONE CALLING SERVICE, ALL DISCLOSURE REQUIRED PURSUANT  
7 TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE PROVIDED IN THE SAME LANGUAGE  
8 OR LANGUAGES, IN ADDITION TO ENGLISH. ALL NON-ENGLISH DISCLOSURE  
9 PROVISIONS SHALL BE CLEARLY PRINTED IN A CLEAR AND CONSPICUOUS LOCATION  
10 ON THE CALLING CARD ITSELF, OR IF THE CALLING CARD IS PACKAGED IN OPAQUE  
11 PACKING, ON THE PACKAGING.  
12     B. AS USED IN THIS SUBDIVISION, "PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL" INCLUDES ALL  
13 MATERIALS PREPARED BY THE COMPANY THAT PROVIDES PREPAID CALLING SERVICES  
14 THROUGH PREPAID CALLING CARDS AND ANY SIGNS FOR DISPLAY BY RETAIL  
15 MERCHANTS OR ANY OTHER PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL THAT IS PREPARED AT THE  
16 DIRECTION OF THE PREPAID CALLING SERVICE.  
17     C. IF THE CALLING CARD IS PURCHASED ON THE INTERNET, THE DISCLOSURE  
18 REQUIREMENTS SHALL BE DISPLAYED IN A CLEAR AND CONSPICUOUS LOCATION ON  
19 THE WEBSITE THROUGH WHICH THE CALLING CARD IS PURCHASED, INCLUDING  
20 INSTRUCTIONS AND DIRECTIONS TO ANY LINK WITH SUCH DISCLOSURES, PRIOR TO  
21 PURCHASING THE SERVICES.  
22     S 2. Subdivision 3 of section 92-f of the public service law, as added  
23 by chapter 651 of the laws of 1999, is amended to read as follows:

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

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1 3. Any company that provides prepaid calling services through prepaid  
2 calling cards shall print legibly on each card or packaging the follow-  
3 ing information:

4 a. any surcharges or fees, including monthly fees, per-call access  
5 fees, or surcharges for the first minute of use that may be applicable  
6 to the use of the prepaid calling card or prepaid calling services with-  
7 in the United States;

8 b. any additional or different prices, rates, or unit values applica-  
9 ble to international usage of the prepaid calling card or prepaid call-  
10 ing services;

11 c. any minimum charge per call, such as a three minute minimum charge;

12 d. any charge for calls that do not connect; [and,]

13 e. any recharge policy[.];

14 F. IF APPLICABLE, THE EXPIRATION DATE OR OTHER LIMITATION ON THE PERI-  
15 OD OF TIME FOR WHICH THE DISPLAYED, PROMOTED, OR ADVERTISED MINUTES WILL  
16 BE AVAILABLE TO THE CUSTOMER; AND

17 G. ANY CONNECTION OR DISCONNECTION FEE OR ANY SURCHARGE ASSOCIATED  
18 WITH THE CALLING CARD THAT IS NOT PART OF THE STANDARD RATE ASSOCIATED  
19 WITH EACH MINUTE USED BY THE CARD.

20 S 3. Subdivision 8 of section 92-f of the public service law, as added  
21 by chapter 651 of the laws of 1999, is amended to read as follows:

22 8. Enforcement. The commission shall have the power, consistent with  
23 federal law, to assess a penalty not to exceed [one] FIVE thousand  
24 dollars against any company that provides prepaid calling cards or  
25 services that knowingly fails or neglects to comply with any provision  
26 of this section or any regulation or order of the commission implement-  
27 ing or enforcing the provisions of this section FOR A FIRST VIOLATION  
28 AND TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION. All  
29 moneys recovered from any administrative penalty shall be paid into the  
30 state treasury to the credit of the general fund.

31 S 4. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after  
32 it shall have become a law.