

HOUSE BILL 1143

C5
SB 763/03 – FIN

8lr1861

By: **Delegates Kullen, Barnes, Frush, and Pena-Melnyk**
Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2008
Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Telephone Companies – Intracounty and Adjacent Local Calling**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Public Service Commission to classify as toll free
4 certain calls made within a county or within a certain distance from a county;
5 prohibiting a local exchange telephone service provider from separately billing
6 certain calls; providing for the application and construction of this Act; and
7 generally relating to local calling areas and rates.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Public Utility Companies
10 Section 4–301.2
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1998 Volume and 2007 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article – Public Utility Companies**

16 **4–301.2.**

17 (A) **THIS SECTION APPLIES TO A PERSON WHO PROVIDES TELEPHONE**
18 **SERVICE IN THE STATE, INCLUDING A TELEPHONE COMPANY, UNLESS FEDERAL**
19 **LAW PROHIBITS THE PERSON FROM PROVIDING COUNTYWIDE SERVICE IN A**
20 **PARTICULAR COUNTY.**

21 (B) (1) **THE COMMISSION SHALL CLASSIFY AS TOLL FREE ANY**
22 **TELEPHONE CALL MADE:**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (I) BETWEEN ANY TWO POINTS WITHIN A SINGLE COUNTY;
2 OR

3 (II) BETWEEN A POINT IN ONE COUNTY AND ANOTHER
4 POINT IN THE STATE WITHIN 40 MILES OF THAT COUNTY.

5 (2) A LOCAL EXCHANGE TELEPHONE SERVICE PROVIDER MAY
6 NOT BILL ANY TELEPHONE CALL THAT IS TOLL FREE UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF
7 THIS SUBSECTION SEPARATELY FROM THE MONTHLY LOCAL TELEPHONE
8 SERVICE CHARGE FOR THE LINE FROM WHICH THE CALL IS MADE.

9 (C) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO LIMIT, TO INCREASE
10 RATES FOR, OR OTHERWISE TO INTERFERE WITH TELEPHONE SERVICE
11 PROVIDED TO CUSTOMERS UNDER A FOREIGN EXCHANGE TELEPHONE LINE
12 TARIFF OR PROGRAM.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 October 1, 2008.