

109TH CONGRESS
2ND SESSION

S. 2178

To make the stealing and selling of telephone records a criminal offense.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 18, 2006

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. BURNS, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. REID) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To make the stealing and selling of telephone records a criminal offense.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Consumer Telephone
5 Records Protection Act of 2006”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) telephone records can be of great use to
9 criminals because the information contained in call

1 logs listed in such records include a wealth of per-
2 sonal data;

3 (2) many call logs reveal the names of tele-
4 phone users' doctors, public and private relation-
5 ships, business associates, and more;

6 (3) although other personal information such as
7 social security numbers may appear on public docu-
8 ments, which can be accessed by data brokers, the
9 only warehouse of telephone records is located at the
10 phone companies themselves;

11 (4) telephone records may be accessed without
12 authorization of the customer by—

13 (A) an employee of the telephone company
14 selling the data;

15 (B) "pretexting," whereby a data broker or
16 other person pretends to be the owner of the
17 phone and convinces the telephone company's
18 employees to release the data to them; or

19 (C) unauthorized access of accounts via the
20 Internet; and

21 (5) because telephone companies encourage cus-
22 tomers to manage their accounts online, many set up
23 the online capability in advance. Many customers
24 never access their Internet accounts, however. If
25 someone seeking the information activates the ac-

1 count before the customer, he or she can gain unfet-
 2 tered access to the telephone records and call logs of
 3 that customer.

4 **SEC. 3. FRAUD AND RELATED ACTIVITY IN CONNECTION**
 5 **WITH OBTAINING CONFIDENTIAL PHONE**
 6 **RECORDS INFORMATION FROM A COVERED**
 7 **ENTITY.**

8 Chapter 47 of title 18, United States Code, is amend-
 9 ed by inserting after section 1038 the following:

10 **“SEC. 1039. FRAUD AND RELATED ACTIVITY IN CONNEC-**
 11 **TION WITH OBTAINING CONFIDENTIAL**
 12 **PHONE RECORDS INFORMATION FROM A**
 13 **COVERED ENTITY.**

14 “(a) **CRIMINAL VIOLATION.**—Whoever obtains, or at-
 15 tempts to obtain, confidential phone records information
 16 from a covered entity, without authorization from the cus-
 17 tomer to whom such confidential phone records informa-
 18 tion relates, by knowingly and intentionally—

19 “(1) making false or fraudulent statements or
 20 representations to an employee of a covered entity;

21 “(2) making such statements or representations
 22 to a customer of a covered entity;

23 “(3) providing false documentation to a covered
 24 entity knowing that such document is false; or

1 “(4) accessing customer accounts of a covered
2 entity via the Internet;
3 shall, for each such occurrence, be fined in accordance
4 with this title, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or
5 both.

6 “(b) PROHIBITION ON SALE OF CONFIDENTIAL
7 PHONE RECORDS INFORMATION.—Except as otherwise
8 provided by applicable law, any person, including any em-
9 ployee of a covered entity or any data broker, who know-
10 ingly and intentionally sells, or attempts to sell, confiden-
11 tial phone records information from a covered entity, with-
12 out authorization from the customer to whom such con-
13 fidential phone records information relates, shall be fined
14 in accordance with this title, imprisoned for not more than
15 5 years, or both.

16 “(c) ENHANCED PENALTIES FOR AGGRAVATED
17 CASES.—Whoever violates, or attempts to violate, sub-
18 section (a) while violating another law of the United
19 States or as part of a pattern of any illegal activity involv-
20 ing more than \$100,000, or more than 50 customers of
21 a covered entity, in a 12-month period shall be fined twice
22 the amount provided in subsection (b)(3) or (c)(3) (as the
23 case may be) of section 3571 of this title, imprisoned for
24 not more than 10 years, or both.

1 “(d) NONAPPLICABILITY TO LAW ENFORCEMENT
2 AGENCIES.—Subsection (a) shall be construed so as to not
3 prevent any action by a law enforcement agency, or any
4 officer, employee, or agent of such agency, to obtain con-
5 fidential phone records information from a covered entity
6 in connection with the performance of the official duties
7 of the agency, in accordance with other applicable laws.

8 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) CONFIDENTIAL PHONE RECORDS INFOR-
10 MATION.—The term ‘confidential phone records in-
11 formation’ means—

12 “(A) information that—

13 “(i) relates to the quantity, technical
14 configuration, type, destination, location,
15 and amount of use of a service offered by
16 a covered entity subscribed to by any cus-
17 tomer of that covered entity; and

18 “(ii) is made available to a covered
19 entity by a customer solely by virtue of the
20 relationship between the covered entity and
21 the customer; and

22 “(B) information contained in any bill re-
23 lated to the product or service offered by a cov-
24 ered entity and received by any customer of the
25 covered entity.

1 “(2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ‘covered en-
2 tity’—

3 “(A) has the same meaning given the term
4 ‘telecommunications carrier’ in section 3 of the
5 Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153);
6 and

7 “(B) includes any provider of IP-enabled
8 voice service.

9 “(3) CUSTOMER.—The term ‘customer’ means,
10 with respect to a covered entity, any person, or au-
11 thorized representative of a person, to whom the cov-
12 ered entity provides a product or service.

13 “(4) DOCUMENT.—The term ‘document’ means
14 any information in any form.

15 “(5) IP-ENABLED VOICE SERVICE.—The term
16 ‘IP-enabled voice service’ means the provision of
17 real-time 2-way voice communications offered to the
18 public, or such class of users as to be effectively
19 available to the public, transmitted through cus-
20 tomer premises equipment using TCP/IP protocol,
21 or a successor protocol, for a fee (whether part of
22 a bundle of services or separately) with 2-way inter-
23 connection capability such that the service can origi-

- 1 nate traffic to, and terminate traffic from, a public
- 2 switched telephone network.”.

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