

on sales calls for voice services; and (ii) unauthorized charges on telephone bills. Although the Commission has previously held that these practices are unjust and unreasonable practices under section 201(b) of the Act, its rules have not expressly prohibited them. Because these prohibitions have been long recognized pursuant to our enforcement actions, however, they should not necessitate any new burdens for those carriers that are in compliance. In addition, the Commission takes steps to improve the effectiveness of the existing carrier change process by eliminating the requirement that carriers obtain the authorization to switch each individual service when selling more than one service and by suspending any carrier for a five-year period from using the TPV process when it becomes the subject of a Commission forfeiture action.

Steps Taken To Minimize Significant Impact on Small Entities, and Significant Alternatives Considered

22. The RFA requires an agency to describe any significant, specifically small business alternatives that it has considered in developing its approach, which may include the following four alternatives (among others): “(1) the establishment of differing compliance or reporting requirements or timetables that take into account the resources available to small entities; (2) the clarification, consolidation, or simplification of compliance or reporting requirements under the rule for small entities; (3) the use of performance, rather than design, standards; and (4) an exemption from coverage of the rule, or any part thereof, for small entities.”

23. The rules adopted in document FCC 18–78 codify long-recognized consumer protections from slamming and cramming. In prior enforcement actions, the Commission has previously held that these practices are unjust and unreasonable practices under section 201(b) of the Act. As a result, the economic impact on affected carriers should be minimal because they impose no new requirements. In declining to adopt other measures discussed in the *Slamming and Cramming NPRM*, the Commission has taken into consideration the potential burdens on carriers, including smaller carriers, in determining that such actions are not justified at this time. In these instances, the Commission has taken into consideration the concerns of industry commenters that the potential costs and delays that may result from these measures outweigh the potential benefits to consumers.

Ordering Clauses

Pursuant to sections 1–4, 201(b), and 258 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 151–154, 201, 258, document FCC 18–78 is adopted, and part 64 of the Commission’s rules, 47 CFR 64.1120 and 64.2401 are amended.

The Commission’s Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Reference Information Center, shall send a copy of document FCC 18–78 to Congress and the Government Accountability Office pursuant to the Congressional Review Act.

The Commission’s Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Reference Information Center, shall send a copy of document FCC 18–78, including the Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 64

Communications common carriers, Telecommunications.

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene Dortch,

Secretary, Office of the Secretary.

Final Rules

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Federal Communications Commission amends 47 CFR part 64 as follows:

PART 64—MISCELLANEOUS RULES RELATING TO COMMON CARRIERS

- 1. The authority citation for part 64 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 47 U.S.C. 154, 201, 202, 218, 222, 225, 226, 227, 228, 251(e), 254(k), 403(b)(2)(B), (c), 616, 620, 1401–1473, unless otherwise noted.

- 2. Amend § 64.1120 by revising paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (b) to read as follows:

§ 64.1120 Verification of orders for telecommunications services.

(a) * * *

(1) * * *

(i) Authorization from the subscriber, subject to the following:

(A) Material misrepresentation on the sales call is prohibited. Upon a consumer’s credible allegation of a sales call misrepresentation, the burden of proof shifts to the carrier making the sales call to provide persuasive evidence to rebut the claim. Upon a finding that such a material misrepresentation has occurred on a sales call, the subscriber’s authorization to switch carriers will be deemed invalid.

(B) [Reserved]

* * * * *

(b) Any telecommunications carrier that becomes the subject of a Commission forfeiture action through a violation of the third-party verification process set forth in paragraph (c)(3) of this section will be suspended for a five-year period from utilizing the third-party verification process to confirm a carrier change.

* * * * *

- 3. Amend § 64.2401 by adding paragraph (g) to read as follows:

§ 64.2401 Truth-in-Billing Requirements.

* * * * *

(g) *Prohibition against unauthorized charges.* Carriers shall not place or cause to be placed on any telephone bill charges that have not been authorized by the subscriber.

[FR Doc. 2018–14151 Filed 7–16–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712–01–P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 64

[WC Docket No. 17–141; CC Docket No. 96–128; WC Docket No. 16–132; FCC 18–21]

Modernization of Payphone Compensation Rules; Implementation of the Pay Telephone Reclassification and Compensation Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996; 2016 Biennial Review of Telecommunications Regulations

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Final rule; announcement of effective date.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Commission announces that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved, for a period of three years, the information collection associated with the Commission’s payphone compensation rules. This document is consistent with the *Modernization of Payphone Compensation Rules Report and Order*, FCC 18–21, which stated that the Commission would publish a document in the **Federal Register** announcing the effective date of those rules.

DATES: The amendment to 47 CFR 64.1310(a)(3) published at 83 FR 11422, March 15, 2018, is effective on July 17, 2018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michele Levy Berlove, Attorney Advisor, Wireline Competition Bureau, at (202) 418–1477, or by email at Michele.Berlove@fcc.gov. For additional

information concerning the Paperwork Reduction Act information collection requirements, contact Nicole Ongele at (202) 418-2991 or nicole.ongele@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document announces that, on July 2, 2018, OMB approved, for a period of three years, the information collection requirements relating to certain payphone compensation rules contained in the Commission's *Modernization of Payphone Compensation Rules Report and Order*, FCC 18-21, published at 83 FR 11422, March 15, 2018, as specified above.

The OMB Control Number is 3060-1046. The Commission publishes this document as an announcement of the effective date of the rules. If you have any comments on the burden estimates listed below, or how the Commission can improve the collections and reduce any burdens caused thereby, please contact Nicole Ongele, Federal Communications Commission, Room 1-A620, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. Please include the OMB Control Number, 3060-1046, in your correspondence. The Commission will also accept your comments via email at PRA@fcc.gov.

To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an email to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice), (202) 418-0432 (TTY).

Synopsis

As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507), the FCC is notifying the public that it received final OMB approval on July 2, 2018, for the information collection requirements contained in the modifications to the Commission's rules in 47 CFR part 64. Under 5 CFR part 1320, an agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a current, valid OMB Control Number.

No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act that does not display a current, valid OMB Control Number. The OMB Control Number is 3060-1046. The foregoing notice is required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13, October 1, 1995, and 44 U.S.C. 3507.

The total annual reporting burdens and costs for the respondents are as follows:

OMB Control Number: 3060-1046.

OMB Approval Date: July 2, 2018.
OMB Expiration Date: July 31, 2021.

Title: Part 64, Modernization of Payphone Compensation Rules *et al.*, WC Docket No. 17-141 *et al.*, FCC 18-21.

Form Number: N/A.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit entities.

Number of Respondents and Responses: 329 respondents; 2,257 responses.

Estimated Time per Response: 0.50 hours-122 hours.

Frequency of Response: On occasion, one-time, and quarterly reporting requirements; third party disclosure requirements; and recordkeeping requirement.

Obligation To Respond: Required to obtain or retain benefits. Statutory authority for this collection of information is contained in 47 U.S.C. 151, 154 and 276 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

Total Annual Burden: 34,720 hours.

Total Annual Cost: No cost(s).

Privacy Act Impact Assessment: No impact(s).

Nature and Extent of Confidentiality: The Commission is not requesting that the respondents submit confidential information to the FCC. Respondents may, however, request confidential treatment for information they believe to be confidential under 47 CFR 0.459 of the Commission's rules.

Needs and Uses: Section 276 of the Communications Act, as amended (the Act), requires that the Federal Communications Commission (Commission or FCC) establish rules ensuring that payphone service providers or PSPs are "fairly compensated" for each and every completed payphone-originated call. The Commission's Payphone Compensation Rules satisfy section 276 by identifying the party liable for compensation and establishing a mechanism for PSPs to be paid. A 2003 Report and Order (FCC 03-235) established detailed rules (Payphone Compensation Rules) ensuring that payphone service providers or PSPs are "fairly compensated" for each and every completed payphone-originated call pursuant to section 276 of the Communications Act, as amended (the Act). The Payphone Compensation Rules satisfy section 276 by identifying the party liable for compensation and establishing a mechanism for PSPs to be paid. The Payphone Compensation Rules: (1) Place liability to compensate PSPs for payphone-originated calls on the facilities-based long distance carriers or switch-based resellers (SBRs)

from whose switches such calls are completed; (2) define these responsible carriers as "Completing Carriers" and require them to develop their own system of tracking calls to completion; (3) require Completing Carriers to file with PSPs a quarterly report and also submit an attestation by the chief financial officer (CFO) that the payment amount for that quarter is accurate and is based on 100% of all completed calls; (4) require quarterly reporting obligations for other facilities-based long distance carriers in the call path, if any, and define these carriers as "Intermediate Carriers;" and (5) give parties flexibility to agree to alternative compensation arrangements (ACA) so that small Completing Carriers may avoid the expense of instituting a tracking system and undergoing an audit. On February 22, 2018, the Commission adopted a Report and Order, FCC 18-21 (*2018 Payphone Order*), that: (1) Eliminated the payphone call tracking system audit and associated reporting requirements; (2) permitted a company official, including but no longer limited to, the chief financial officer (CFO), to certify that a Completing Carrier's quarterly compensation payments to PSPs are accurate and complete; and (3) eliminated expired interim and intermediate per-payphone compensation rules that no longer apply to any entity. We believe that the revisions adopted in the *2018 Payphone Order* significantly decrease the paperwork burden on carriers.

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene Dortch,

Secretary, Office of the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2018-15157 Filed 7-16-18; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Parts 73 and 74

[GN Docket No. 16-142; FCC 17-158]

Authorizing Permissive Use of the "Next Generation" Broadcast Television Standard

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Final rule; announcement of effective date.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Commission announces that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved, for a period of three years, the information collection requirements associated with FCC 17-158. This