

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2439

To ensure the efficient allocation of telephone numbers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 1, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Commerce

A BILL

To ensure the efficient allocation of telephone numbers.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) The premature exhaustion of telephone area
6 codes causes economic dislocation for businesses and
7 unnecessary inconvenience for households.

8 (2) The Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Pub-
9 lic Law 104–104) was enacted with the objective of
10 facilitating the development of competitive markets
11 in telecommunications services. The efficient alloca-

1 tion of telephone numbers would further the achieve-
2 ment of that objective.

3 (3) The technology and procedures for the effi-
4 cient allocation of telephone numbers are currently
5 in place in many areas and are in the process of
6 being implemented nationwide.

7 (4) The combination of rapid growth in com-
8 petition for telecommunication services and the inef-
9 ficient allocation of numbering resources devoted to
10 such services will result in the creation of scores of
11 new telephone area codes, almost all of which will
12 become wholly unnecessary once procedures for the
13 efficient allocation of telephone numbers are in
14 place.

15 (5) The potential exhaustion of available area
16 codes within the North American Numbering Plan
17 (“NANP”) would require that 1 or more digits be
18 added to all telephone numbers in the United States,
19 creating massive disruptions and costs for all con-
20 sumers, businesses, institutions, and governments
21 comparable to the “Year 2000” computer problem,
22 except that, unlike the “Year 2000” problem, the
23 potential for area code exhaustion is entirely avoid-
24 able if efficient and effective number conservation

1 measures are adopted and implemented without
2 undue delay.

3 (6) State regulatory authorities have the inter-
4 est and capability to tailor mechanisms to conserve
5 telephone numbers to the needs of the telecommuni-
6 cations markets.

7 (7) Mechanisms for the conservation of tele-
8 phone numbers can be implemented without imped-
9 ing competition for telecommunications services.

10 **SEC. 2. EFFICIENT ALLOCATION OF TELEPHONE NUMBERS.**

11 (a) PLAN.—Not later than December 31, 2000, the
12 Federal Communications Commission shall develop and
13 implement a plan for the efficient allocation of telephone
14 numbers.

15 (b) ELEMENTS.—The plan under subsection (a)
16 shall—

17 (1) include mechanisms to ensure full port-
18 ability of telephone numbers among services and
19 service providers within individual rating areas, and
20 establish rules applicable to service providers not
21 subject to or otherwise not in compliance with such
22 number portability requirements, including the seg-
23regation of services furnished by such service pro-
24viders into separate area codes or service access
25 codes, for the purpose of maximizing the effective-

1 ness of number conservation measures requiring
2 number portability within the area codes in which
3 such measures are to be implemented;

4 (2) provide for full sharing of unassigned tele-
5 phone numbers among telecommunications carriers;

6 (3) take into account any telecommunications
7 technology widely available as of December 31,
8 2000, that requires a telephone number; and

9 (4) consider and take steps to minimize the
10 total societal costs and impacts of the plan for the
11 efficient allocation of telephone numbers and any
12 specific number relief or conservation measures that
13 may arise therefrom.

14 (c) DELEGATION OF NUMBERING JURISDICTION.—
15 Until the Commission has fully implemented the plan re-
16 quired by subsection (a), the Commission shall, upon the
17 request of a State commission, delegate to the State com-
18 mission the jurisdiction of the Commission over tele-
19 communications numbering with respect to the State
20 under section 251(e)(1) of the Communications Act of
21 1934 (47 U.S.C. 251(e)(1)) to the extent that such delega-
22 tion will permit the State commission to implement meas-
23 ures to conserve telephone numbers, including measures
24 as follows:

1 (1) To establish minimum use and so-called
2 “fill” rate requirements for central office codes.

3 (2) To conduct audits of the use of telephone
4 numbers and central office codes.

5 (3) To require telecommunications carriers to
6 return unused or underused central office codes and
7 to return central office codes that have been ob-
8 tained in a manner contrary to Federal or State
9 numbering guidelines or protocols.

10 (4) To establish individual number pooling,
11 mandatory 1000-block pooling, and interim unas-
12 signed number porting.

13 (5) To ration central office codes.

14 (6) To develop and establish dialing protocols
15 applicable for calls placed within the same area code
16 or local calling area (or both) of the calling party
17 that will consider, in addition to the potential effect
18 upon competition, matters of public convenience and
19 safety and the public interest generally.

20 (7) To develop and implement, where the State
21 commission finds it to be in the public interest and
22 supportive of number conservation measures that it
23 may adopt, area code relief measures involving the
24 use of overlay area codes applicable to telecommuni-
25 cations service providers not subject to or otherwise

1 not in compliance with local number portability, in-
2 cluding a requirement that existing telephone num-
3 bers assigned to or in use (or both) by such service
4 providers be transferred to the overlay area code,
5 and including a requirement that calls placed within
6 a calling party's home area code continue to be
7 dialable on a 7-digit basis.

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