

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3555

To ensure the efficient allocation of telephone numbers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 31, 2000

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN 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 under development and should be available in 2 to
6 3 years.

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 premature exhaustion of telephone area
16 codes can be prevented by measures to conserve the
17 allocation of so-called central office codes.

18 (6) State regulatory authorities have the inter-
19 est and capability to tailor mechanisms to conserve
20 telephone numbers to the needs of the telecommuni-
21 cations markets.

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

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

2 (a) PLAN.—Not later than June 30, 2000, the Fed-
3 eral Communications Commission shall develop a plan for
4 the efficient allocation of telephone numbers. The Com-
5 mission shall fully implement such plan not later than De-
6 cember 31, 2000.

7 (b) ELEMENTS.—The plan under subsection (a)
8 shall—

9 (1) include mechanisms to ensure full port-
10 ability of telephone numbers;

11 (2) provide for full sharing of unassigned tele-
12 phone numbers among telecommunications carriers;
13 and

14 (3) take into account any telecommunications
15 technology that will be widely available as of Decem-
16 ber 31, 2000, that requires a telephone number.

17 (c) DELEGATION OF NUMBERING JURISDICTION.—

18 Until the Commission has fully implemented the plan re-
19 quired by subsection (a), the Commission shall, upon the
20 request of a State commission, delegate to the State com-
21 mission the jurisdiction of the Commission over tele-
22 communications numbering with respect to the State
23 under section 251(e)(1) of the Communications Act of
24 1934 (47 U.S.C. 251(e)(1)) to the extent that such delega-
25 tion will permit the State commission to implement meas-

1 ures to conserve telephone numbers, including measures
2 as follows:

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

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

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

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

15 (5) To ration central office codes.

○