

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1350

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to protect the privacy rights of subscribers to wireless communications services.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 30, 2005

Mr. SPECTER (for himself and Mrs. BOXER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to protect the privacy rights of subscribers to wireless communications services.

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 “Wireless 411 Privacy
5 Act”.

6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) there are roughly 150 million wireless sub-
2 sscribers in the United States, up from approximately
3 15 million subscribers just a decade ago;

4 (2) wireless phone service has proven valuable
5 to millions of Americans because of its mobility, and
6 the fact that government policies have expanded op-
7 portunities for new carriers to enter the market, of-
8 fering more choices and ever lower prices for con-
9 sumers;

10 (3) in addition to the benefits of competition
11 and mobility, subscribers also benefit from the fact
12 that wireless phone numbers have not been publicly
13 available;

14 (4) up until now, the privacy of wireless sub-
15 scribes has been safeguarded and thus vastly dimin-
16 ished the likelihood of subscribers receiving un-
17 wanted or annoying phone call interruptions on their
18 wireless phones;

19 (5) moreover, because their wireless contact in-
20 formation, such as their phone number, have never
21 been publicly available in any published directory or
22 from any directory assistance service, subscribers
23 have come to expect that if their phone rings it's
24 likely to be a call from someone to whom they have
25 personally given their number;

1 (6) the wireless industry is poised to begin im-
2 plementing a directory assistance service so that
3 callers can reach wireless subscribers, including sub-
4 sscribers who have not given such callers their wire-
5 less phone number;

6 (7) while some wireless subscribers may find
7 such directory assistance service useful, current sub-
8 scribes deserve the right to choose whether they
9 want to participate in such a directory;

10 (8) because wireless users are typically charged
11 for incoming calls, consumers must be afforded the
12 ability to maintain the maximum amount of control
13 over how many calls they may expect to receive and,
14 in particular, control over the disclosure of their
15 wireless phone number;

23 (10) the marketplace has not yet adequately ex-
24 plained an effective plan to protect consumer privacy
25 rights;

1 (11) Congress previously acted to protect the
2 wireless location information of subscribers by enact-
3 ing prohibitions on the disclosure of such sensitive
4 information without the express prior authorization
5 of the subscriber; and

6 (12) the public interest would be served by
7 similarly enacting effective and industry-wide privacy
8 protections for consumers with respect to wireless
9 directory assistance service.

10 SEC. 3. CONSUMER CONTROL OF WIRELESS PHONE NUM-
11 BERS.

12 Section 332(c) of the Communications Act of 1934
13 (47 U.S.C. 332(c)) is amended by adding at the end the
14 following:

15 “(9) WIRELESS CONSUMER PRIVACY PROTEC-
16 TION.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A provider of commer-
18 cial mobile services, or any direct or indirect af-
19 filiate or agent of such a provider, may not in-
20 clude the wireless telephone number informa-
21 tion of any subscriber in any wireless directory
22 assistance service database unless—

1 right not to be listed in any wireless direc-
2 tory assistance service; and

12 “(B) COST-FREE DE-LISTING.—A provider
13 of commercial mobile services, or any direct or
14 indirect affiliate or agent of such a provider,
15 shall remove the wireless telephone number in-
16 formation of any subscriber from any wireless
17 directory assistance service database upon re-
18 quest by that subscriber and without any cost
19 to the subscriber.

1 “(i) such subscriber is provided prior
2 notice of the calling party’s identity and is
3 permitted to accept or reject the incoming
4 call on a per-call basis;

5 “(ii) such subscriber’s wireless tele-
6 phone number information is not disclosed
7 to the calling party; and

8 “(iii) such subscriber has not declined
9 or refused to participate in such database.

10 “(D) PROTECTION OF WIRELESS PHONE
11 NUMBERS.—A telecommunications carrier shall
12 not disclose in its billing information provided
13 to customers wireless telephone number infor-
14 mation of subscribers who have indicated a
15 preference to their commercial mobile services
16 provider for not having their wireless telephone
17 number information disclosed. Notwithstanding
18 the preceding sentence, a telecommunications
19 carrier may disclose a portion of the wireless
20 telephone number in its billing information if
21 the actual number cannot be readily
22 ascertained.

23 “(E) PUBLICATION OF DIRECTORIES PRO-
24 HIBITED.—A provider of commercial mobile
25 services, or any direct or indirect affiliate or

1 agent of such a provider, may not publish, in
2 printed, electronic, or other form, or sell or oth-
3 erwise disseminate, the contents of any wireless
4 directory assistance service database, or any
5 portion or segment thereof unless—

6 “(i) the mobile service provider pro-
7 vides a conspicuous, separate notice to the
8 subscriber informing the subscriber of the
9 right not to be listed; and

10 “(ii) the mobile service provider ob-
11 tains express prior authorization for listing
12 from such subscriber, separate from any
13 authorization obtained to provide such sub-
14 scriber with commercial mobile service, or
15 any calling plan or service associated with
16 such commercial mobile service, and such
17 authorization has not been subsequently
18 withdrawn.

19 “(F) NO CONSUMER FEE FOR RETAINING
20 PRIVACY.—A provider of commercial mobile
21 services may not charge any subscriber for exer-
22 cising any of the rights under this paragraph.

23 “(G) STATE AND LOCAL LAWS PRE-
24 EMPTED.—To the extent that any State or local
25 government imposes requirements on providers

1 of commercial mobile services, or any direct or
2 indirect affiliate or agent of such providers,
3 that are inconsistent with the requirements of
4 this paragraph, this paragraph preempts such
5 State or local requirements.

6 “(H) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

7 “(i) CALLING PARTY’S IDENTITY.—
8 The term ‘calling party’s identity’ means
9 the telephone number of the calling party
10 or the name of subscriber to such tele-
11 phone, or an oral or text message which
12 provides sufficient information to enable a
13 commercial mobile services subscriber to
14 determine who is calling.

15 “(ii) UNLISTED COMMERCIAL MOBILE
16 SERVICES SUBSCRIBER.—The term ‘un-
17 listed commercial mobile services sub-
18 scriber’ means a subscriber to commercial
19 mobile services who has not provided ex-
20 press prior consent to a commercial mobile
21 service provider to be included in a wireless
22 directory assistance service database.

23 “(iii) WIRELESS TELEPHONE NUMBER
24 INFORMATION.—The term ‘wireless tele-
25 phone number information’ means the tele-

1 phone number, electronic address, and any
2 other identifying information by which a
3 calling party may reach a subscriber to
4 commercial mobile services, and which is
5 assigned by a commercial mobile service
6 provider to such subscriber, and includes
7 such subscriber's name and address.