

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7151

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for measures to reduce the number of unlawful robocalls and unlawful spoofed calls received by consumers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 16, 2018

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for measures to reduce the number of unlawful robocalls and unlawful spoofed calls received by consumers, and for other purposes.

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 “Stop Harassing Calls
5 Act of 2018”.

1 **SEC. 2. REDUCING THE NUMBER OF UNLAWFUL**
2 **ROBOCALLS AND UNLAWFUL SPOOFED**
3 **CALLS.**

4 (a) REGULATIONS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Communications Act of
6 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) is amended by insert-
7 ing after section 227 the following:

8 **“SEC. 227A. MEASURES TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF UN-**
9 **LAWFUL ROBOCALLS AND UNLAWFUL**
10 **SPOOFED CALLS.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
12 date of the enactment of this section, the Commission
13 shall promulgate regulations that require a provider of
14 voice service or text messaging service to implement meas-
15 ures, to be specified by the Commission in such regula-
16 tions, to reduce the number of unlawful robocalls and un-
17 lawful spoofed calls received by consumers.

18 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 “(1) UNLAWFUL ROBOCALL.—The term ‘unlaw-
20 ful robocall’ means a call made or a text message
21 sent in violation of section 227(b).

22 “(2) UNLAWFUL SPOOFED CALL.—The term
23 ‘unlawful spoofed call’ means a call or text message
24 in connection with which a caller identification serv-
25 ice is caused to transmit misleading or inaccurate

1 caller identification information in violation of sec-
2 tion 227(e).

3 “(3) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—The terms defined
4 in section 227(e)(8) have the meanings given such
5 terms in such section.”.

6 (2) TRANSITIONAL RULE REGARDING CERTAIN
7 DEFINITIONS.—Paragraph (3) of subsection (b) of
8 section 227A of the Communications Act of 1934, as
9 added by paragraph (1) of this subsection, shall
10 apply before the effective date of the amendment
11 made to section 227(e)(8) of such Act (47 U.S.C.
12 227(e)(8)) by subparagraph (C) of section 503(a)(2)
13 of division P of the Consolidated Appropriations Act,
14 2018 (Public Law 115–141) as if such amendment
15 were already in effect.

16 (b) DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN BY FCC.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall de-
18 velop a plan to reduce the number of unlawful
19 robocalls and unlawful spoofed calls received by con-
20 sumers.

21 (2) REQUIRED CONTENTS.—The plan developed
22 under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

23 (A) Steps that the Commission can take to
24 increase enforcement of subsections (b) and (e)

1 of section 227 of the Communications Act of
2 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227).

3 (B) Recommendations to Congress for
4 changes in law to give the Commission addi-
5 tional authority to reduce unlawful robocalls
6 and unlawful spoofed calls.

7 (C) A strategy for outreach by the Com-
8 mission to consumers (with an emphasis on
9 young consumers) to help consumers identify
10 calls that may be fraudulent.

11 (3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1
12 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
13 Commission shall submit to Congress a report con-
14 taining the plan developed under paragraph (1).

15 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
17 means the Federal Communications Commission.

18 (2) UNLAWFUL ROBOCALL; UNLAWFUL
19 SPOOFED CALL.—The terms “unlawful robocall” and
20 “unlawful spoofed call” have the meanings given
21 such terms in section 227A(b) of the Communica-
22 tions Act of 1934, as added by subsection (a)(1).

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