

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2008

Legislative Document

No. 2180

H.P. 1550

House of Representatives, January 31, 2008

An Act To Ensure the Integrity of Prepaid Calling Accounts

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Reference to the Committee on Utilities and Energy suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative ADAMS of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator DAMON of Hancock and
Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, BLISS of South Portland, CAMPBELL of
Newfield, CAREY of Lewiston, CONNOR of Kennebunk, EATON of Sullivan,
MacDONALD of Boothbay, Senator: BARTLETT of Cumberland.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §7308** is enacted to read:

3 **§7308. Prepaid calling service**

4 **1. Definition.** For purposes of this section, "prepaid calling service" has the same
5 meaning as in Title 36, section 2551, subsection 9.

6 **2. Value may not be reduced.** The value of a prepaid calling service may not be
7 reduced after that service is purchased.

8 **3. Notice of rate increase for prepaid calling service purchased by telephone or**
9 **on the Internet.** A provider of a prepaid calling service shall notify a consumer of the
10 prepaid calling service of an increase in the rate charged for that service before that
11 consumer purchases additional service from that provider by telephone or on the Internet.
12 This notice may be in the form of a telephone recording.

13 **4. Notice of variance between in-state and interstate rates.** A provider of a
14 prepaid calling service shall notify a consumer of the prepaid calling service if that
15 provider charges different rates for in-state and interstate service. If that service is
16 purchased in a store, this notice must be on the packaging of the prepaid calling service
17 product. If that service is purchased by telephone, this notice must be in the form of a
18 telephone recording. If that service is purchased on the Internet, this notice must be on the
19 website on which that service is purchased.

20 **SUMMARY**

21 This bill provides that the value of a prepaid calling service may not be reduced after
22 that service is purchased. This bill provides that a provider of a prepaid calling service
23 shall notify a consumer of the prepaid calling service of an increase in the rate charged
24 for that service before that consumer purchases additional service from that provider by
25 telephone or on the Internet. This bill provides that a provider of a prepaid calling service
26 shall notify a consumer of the prepaid calling service if that provider charges different
27 rates for in-state and interstate service.