

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2018

Legislative Document

No. 1732

S.P. 631

In Senate, December 22, 2017

**An Act To Protect Maine Citizens from an Out-of-state Entity's
Misleading Use of In-state Telephone Numbers**

(EMERGENCY)

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

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 19, 2017. Referred to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LANGLEY of Hancock.
Cosponsored by Representative VACHON of Scarborough and
Senators: MASON of Androscoggin, WOODSOME of York, Representatives: COREY of
Windham, HARRINGTON of Sanford, KORNFIELD of Bangor, ORDWAY of Standish,
STETKIS of Canaan.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** the practice of using local telephone numbers to mask a caller's
4 out-of-state location in order to disguise fraudulent activity is increasing; and

5 **Whereas,** the victims of this practice are often Maine's elderly; and

6 **Whereas,** this legislation is intended to restrict this practice by prohibiting the rental
7 or sale of local numbers to persons that have no physical presence in the State; and

8 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
9 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
10 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
11 therefore,

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

13 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §7110** is enacted to read:

14 **§7110. Prohibition on selling or renting inaccurate caller ID information**

15 A voice service provider may not rent or sell telephone numbers with a North
16 American Numbering Plan area code assigned to Maine to a person unless that person has
17 a sufficient physical presence in the State.

18 The commission shall adopt rules to define "sufficient physical presence" and to
19 implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules
20 as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

21 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
22 legislation takes effect when approved.

23 **SUMMARY**

24 This bill prohibits a voice service provider from renting or selling telephone numbers
25 with Maine area codes to a person unless that person has a sufficient physical presence in
26 the State. It requires the Public Utilities Commission to adopt implementing rules.