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**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** No

RH/CL

§§1,2 -  
C.48:5A-11.12 &  
48:5A-11.13  
§§3,4 -  
C.48:17-37 &  
48:17-38  
§§5,6 -  
C.56:12-97 &  
56:12-98  
§7 - Note

P.L. 2017, CHAPTER 378, *approved January 16, 2018*  
Assembly, No. 4280

1 **AN ACT** concerning television and telephone service contracts and  
2 supplementing Titles 48 and 56 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. As used in section 2 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
8 before the Legislature as this bill):

9 “Bundle contract” means the provision of cable television service  
10 and telecommunications service to a residential customer in this  
11 State through a contract with a cable television company for those  
12 services.

13 “Cable television company,” “CATV company,” “cable  
14 television service,” and “CATV service” shall have the same  
15 meaning as provided in section 3 of P.L.1972, c.186 (C.48:5A-3).

16 “Residential customer” or “customer” means a customer  
17 receiving cable television service from a cable television company.

18 “Telecommunications service” shall have the same meaning as  
19 provided in section 2 of P.L.1991, c.428 (C.48:2-21.17).

20 “Victim of domestic violence” shall have the same meaning as  
21 provided in section 3 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-19).

22

23 2. A cable television company shall allow a residential  
24 customer who is under a contract with a CATV company, including  
25 but not limited to, a bundle contract or multi-year contract, to opt-  
26 out of the contract without paying an early termination fee or other  
27 similar charge when the customer is a victim of domestic violence  
28 and requests to opt-out of the contract in writing. The residential  
29 customer who is a victim of domestic violence shall provide to the  
30 CATV company, within one year of the customer’s request, a copy  
31 of a permanent restraining order: issued by a court pursuant to  
32 section 13 of the “Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991,”  
33 P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-29); or from another jurisdiction issued  
34 pursuant to the jurisdiction’s laws concerning domestic violence. A  
35 request for opting-out of the contract without charge shall be made

1 in good faith. The CATV company shall waive the otherwise  
2 applicable charges for the residential customer requesting to opt-out  
3 of the contract as of the date the CATV company receives the  
4 request.

5

6 3. As used in section 4 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
7 before the Legislature as this bill):

8 “Bundle contract” means the provision of telecommunications  
9 service and cable television service to a residential customer in this  
10 State through a contract with a local exchange telephone company  
11 for those services.

12 “Cable television service” shall have the same meaning as  
13 provided in section 3 of P.L.1972, c.186 (C.48:5A-3).

14 “Local exchange telephone company” and “telecommunications  
15 service” shall have the same meaning as provided in section 2 of  
16 P.L.1991, c.428 (C.48:2-21.17).

17 “Residential customer” or “customer” means a customer  
18 receiving telecommunications service from a local exchange  
19 telephone company.

20 “Victim of domestic violence” shall have the same meaning as  
21 provided in section 3 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-19).

22

23 4. A local exchange telephone company shall allow a  
24 residential customer who is under contract with the local exchange  
25 telephone company, including but not limited to, a bundle contract  
26 or multi-year contract, to opt-out of the contract without paying an  
27 early termination fee or other similar charge when the customer is a  
28 victim of domestic violence and requests to opt-out of the contract  
29 in writing. The residential customer who is a victim of domestic  
30 violence shall provide to the local exchange telephone company,  
31 within one year of the customer’s request, a copy of a permanent  
32 restraining order: issued by a court pursuant to section 13 of the  
33 “Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991,” P.L.1991, c.261  
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36 opting-out of the contract without charge shall be made in good  
37 faith. The local exchange telephone company shall waive the  
38 otherwise applicable charges for the residential customer requesting  
39 to opt-out of the contract as of the date the local exchange telephone  
40 company receives the request.

41

42 5. As used in section 6 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
43 before the Legislature as this bill):

44 “Bundle contract” means the provision of direct broadcast  
45 satellite service and telecommunications service to a residential  
46 customer in this State through a contract with a provider of direct  
47 broadcast satellite service for those services.

1 “Provider of direct broadcast satellite service” or “provider”  
2 shall have the same meaning as provided in 47 U.S.C. s.335.

3 “Residential customer” or “customer” means a customer  
4 receiving direct broadcast satellite service from a provider of direct  
5 broadcast satellite service.

6 “Telecommunications service” shall have the same meaning as  
7 provided in section 2 of P.L.1991, c.428 (C.48:2-21.17).

8 “Victim of domestic violence” shall have the same meaning as  
9 provided in section 3 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-19).

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11 6. A provider of direct broadcast satellite service shall allow a  
12 residential customer who is under contract with the provider,  
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16 victim of domestic violence and requests to opt-out of the contract  
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24 contract without charge shall be made in good faith. The provider  
25 shall waive the otherwise applicable charges for the residential  
26 customer requesting to opt-out of the contract as of the date the  
27 provider receives the request.

28

29 7. This act shall take effect immediately and apply to contracts  
30 entered into or renewed after the effective date of this act.

31

32

33

#### STATEMENT

34

35 This bill provides that a cable television company, local  
36 exchange telephone company, or provider of direct broadcast  
37 satellite service providing television and telecommunications  
38 service to allow a residential customer who is a victim of domestic  
39 violence and is under a bundle contract or multi-year contract, to  
40 cancel the contract without paying an early termination fee or other  
41 similar charge.

42 The bill requires a customer who is a victim of domestic violence  
43 to request the contract cancellation in writing and submit, within  
44 one year of the request, documentation proving that the customer is  
45 a victim of domestic violence to the local exchange telephone  
46 company, cable television company, or provider of direct satellite  
47 broadcast service. The required documentation is to include a copy  
48 of a permanent domestic violence restraining order issued in this

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7 providers receive the request.

8

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12 \_\_\_\_\_  
13 Allows domestic violence victims to cancel television and  
telephone service contracts without paying early termination fee.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 4280

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 27, 2016

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman ANNETTE CHAPARRO**

**District 33 (Hudson)**

**Assemblyman NICHOLAS CHIARAVALLOTTI**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Senator JAMES BEACH**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Senator DIANE B. ALLEN**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

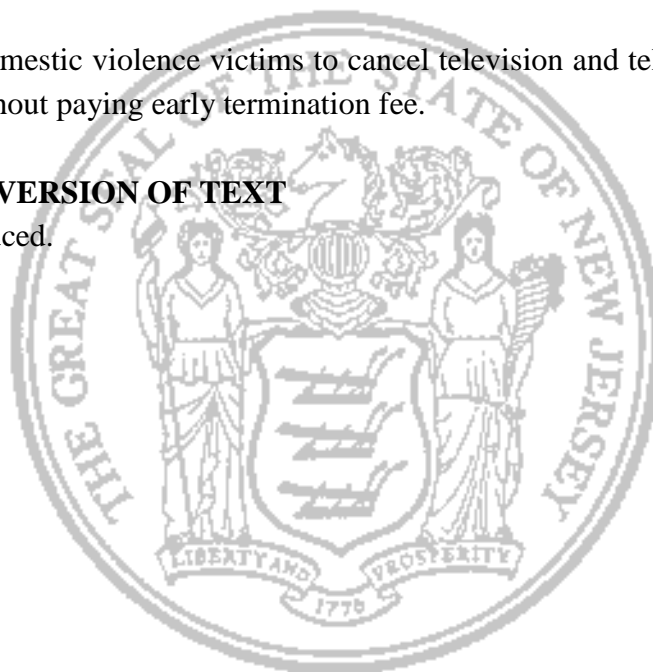
**Assemblywomen McKnight, Mosquera, Assemblymen Coughlin,  
O'Scanlon, Assemblywoman Lampitt, Senators Ruiz and Madden**

**SYNOPSIS**

Allows domestic violence victims to cancel television and telephone service contracts without paying early termination fee.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/9/2018)**

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35 “Provider of direct broadcast satellite service” or “provider”  
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40 requesting to opt-out of the contract as of the date these service  
41 providers receive the request.

ASSEMBLY TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND UTILITIES  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 4280**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MAY 11, 2017

The Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4280.

As reported, this bill requires that a cable television company, local exchange telephone company, or provider of direct broadcast satellite service providing television and telecommunications service allow a residential customer who is a victim of domestic violence and is under a bundle contract or multi-year contract, to cancel the contract without paying an early termination fee or other similar charge.

The bill requires a customer who is a victim of domestic violence to request the contract cancellation in writing and submit, within one year of the request, documentation proving that the customer is a victim of domestic violence to the local exchange telephone company, cable television company, or provider of direct satellite broadcast service. The required documentation is to include a copy of a permanent domestic violence restraining order issued in this State or a copy of a permanent restraining order from another jurisdiction issued pursuant to the jurisdiction's laws concerning domestic violence. A request for opting-out of the contract without charge is to be made in good faith. These service providers are to waive the otherwise applicable charges for the residential customer requesting to opt-out of the contract as of the date these service providers receive the request.

# SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### ASSEMBLY, No. 4280

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 5, 2018

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4280.

This bill requires that a cable television company, local exchange telephone company, or provider of direct broadcast satellite service providing television and telecommunications service allow a residential customer who is a victim of domestic violence and is under a bundle contract or multi-year contract, to cancel the contract without paying an early termination fee or other similar charge.

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As reported, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 3264, as also reported by the committee.

#### FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill is not certified for a Fiscal Note.

# SENATE, No. 3264

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 1, 2017

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JAMES BEACH**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Senator DIANE B. ALLEN**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Ruiz and Madden**

**SYNOPSIS**

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