

48:17-22

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA: 48:17-22

(Telephone Service-residential--require telephone companies to offer blocking)

LAWS OF: 1988

CHAPTER: 49

Bill No: A2300

Sponsor(s): Ogden & Smith

Date Introduced: January 25, 1988

Committee: Assembly: Transportation & Communications

Senate: Transportation & Communications

Amended during passage: Yes Amendments during passage denoted by asterisks.

Date of Passage: Assembly: March 21, 1988

Senate: May 16, 1988

Date of Approval: June 30, 1988

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement: Yes

Committee Statement: Assembly: Yes

Senate: Yes

Fiscal Note: No

Veto Message: No

Message on signing: No

Following were printed:

Reports: No

Hearings: No

See newspaper clipping file "Telephone & Telegraph-1988" in New Jersey Reference Department.

DO

17

[FIRST REPRINT]
ASSEMBLY, No. 2300

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 25, 1988

By Assemblywomen OGDEN and Smith

1 AN ACT concerning ¹adult-oriented¹ information-access
telephone service and supplementing chapter 17 of Title 48.

3

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

¹[1. Every telephone company the principal business of which
7 is the provision of telephone service within this State shall offer
residential subscribers the option of deleting access to
9 information-access telephone service originating in the State.

The Board of Public Utilities shall adopt rules and regulations,
11 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L. 1968, c.
410 (C. 52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the purposes of this act.
13 The board shall specify a method or methods for telephone
companies to institute this deletion of access option for
15 residential subscribers, taking into consideration the operational
requirements of the various types of telephone equipment in use
17 throughout the State. The board shall further require that any
costs incurred in deleting access be borne by providers of
19 information-access telephone services rather than residential
telephone subscribers.

21 For purposes of this section "information-access telephone
service" means a class of telephone service, commonly referred
23 to as "976 service," where for a charge, in addition to the basic
local exchange charge, recorded commercial, informational or
25 public service messages, interactive computer programs, and
other services are furnished.]

27 1. No telephone company the principal business of which is the
provision of telephone service within this State shall provide a
29 subscriber access to adult-oriented information-access telephone
service originating in the State without written authorization
31 from the subscriber.

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the
above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined *thus* is new matter.
Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:
¹ Assembly floor amendments adopted March 7, 1988.

1 The Board of Public Utilities shall, pursuant to the
 3 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L. 1968, c. 410 (C. 52:14B-1
 et seq.), adopt rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the
 purposes of this act. The rules and regulations shall include:

5 a. Specification of a method or methods for telephone
 7 companies to institute the access option, taking into
 consideration the operational requirements and limitations of the
 various types of telephone equipment or central office switching
 9 equipment in use throughout the State;

11 b. The requirement that adult-oriented information-access
 service shall not be available through telephone company
 operators or pay telephones;

13 c. The manner in which subscribers will be notified, free of
 charge, of the provisions of this act;

15 d. The manner in which a subscriber may notify the telephone
 17 company that access to the adult-oriented information-access
 telephone is desired, including the requirements that the
 subscriber be over eighteen years of age and that the request for
 19 access be in writing; and

21 e. The fee to be paid for processing a request for access,
 including the provision that a subscriber's initial request for
 access will be free of charge.

23 For purposes of this section "adult-oriented
 25 information-access telephone service" means a class of telephone
 service where for a charge, in addition to the basic exchange
 charge, sexually explicit recorded messages are furnished.¹

27 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

29

PUBLIC UTILITIES

31 Communications and Broadcasting

33 Requires telephone companies to block access to adult-oriented
 information-access telephone service.

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3

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9 information-access telephone service originating in the State.

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11 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
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13 board shall specify a method or methods for telephone companies
to institute this deletion of access option for residential
15 subscribers, taking into consideration the operational
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17 throughout the State. The board shall further require that any
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19 information-access telephone services rather than residential
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service" means a class of telephone service, commonly referred
23 to as "976 service," where for a charge, in addition to the basic
local exchange charge, recorded commercial, informational or
25 public service messages, interactive computer programs, and
other services are furnished.

27 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

29

STATEMENT

31 This bill requires telephone companies in the State to offer to
residential subscribers the option to block access from their
33 telephone line to information-access numbers.
Information-access numbers or "976 service" offer recorded
35 commercial, informational or public service messages,

1 interactive computer programs, and other services for a charge,
in addition to the local exchange charge, to the person calling.

3 In some states adult message services are among the services
offered through information-access numbers. Adult message
5 numbers usually offer a recording that is sexually explicit in
nature. There is growing concern over the easy access to these
7 adult message services by children. At present there is no
method to prevent children from dialing adult message numbers
9 or any of the other information-access numbers. Although there
are no adult message numbers currently offered in New Jersey,
11 this bill would have a blocking mechanism in place if adult
message service is offered in the future. This bill would allow a
13 residential telephone customer to prevent anyone using their
telephone line to access all "976" numbers including adult
15 message numbers. Any costs incurred in deleting access would be
paid by the providers of information-access telephone services.

17

PUBLIC UTILITIES

19

Communications and Broadcasting

21 Requires telephone companies to offer blocking service to
residential subscribers.

ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2300

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 28, 1988

The Assembly Transportation and Communications Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 2300.

This bill requires telephone companies in the State to offer to residential subscribers the option to block access from their telephone line to information-access numbers. Information-access numbers or "976 service" offer recorded commercial, informational or public service messages, interactive computer programs, and other services for a charge, in addition to the local exchange charge, to the person calling.

In some states adult message services are among the services offered through information-access numbers. Adult message numbers usually offer a recording that is sexually explicit in nature. There is growing concern over the easy access to these adult message services by children. At present there is no method to prevent children from dialing adult message numbers or any of the other information-access numbers. Although there are no adult message numbers currently offered in New Jersey, this bill would have a blocking mechanism in place if adult message service is offered in the future. This bill would allow residential telephone customers to prevent anyone using their telephone line to access all "976" numbers including adult message numbers. Any costs incurred in deleting access would be paid by the providers of information-access telephone services.

SENATE TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[FIRST REPRINT]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2300

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: APRIL 25, 1988

The Senate Transportation and Communications Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 2300 (1R).

This bill would require telephone companies to block access to adult-oriented information-access telephone service by providing that no telephone company, the principal business of which is the provision of telephone service within this State, shall provide a subscriber access to adult-oriented information-access telephone service originating in the State without written authorization from the subscriber. The Board of Public Utilities shall adopt rules and regulations to effectuate this bill. The rules and regulations shall include, among other provisions, the requirement that adult-oriented information-access service shall not be available through telephone company operators or pay phones, and that a subscriber wishing access be over eighteen years of age and make the request in writing. "Adult-oriented information-access telephone service" is defined as a class of telephone service where for a charge, in addition to the basic exchange charge, sexually explicit recorded messages are furnished.