

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3687**



Introduced by Representative GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

**AN ACT
PROTECTING CONSUMERS' PHONE RECORDS, PROVIDING PENALTIES
THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**


EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is stated in Article Section 3, of our Constitution that a person has the right to privacy. Any unlawful intrusion to a person's home and personal effects is a violation of this right but this, of course, also includes any person's communication or correspondence, be it verbal or written. Due to innovations in Information Technology, this right to privacy has now been extended in scope to include even electronic ways of communicating.

Such right, although safeguarded by our Constitution, was further strengthened by the enactment of Republic Act No. 4200 entitled, "An Act to Prohibit and Penalize Wire Tapping and other related Violations of the Privacy of Communication, and for other Purposes." This law passed in 1965 provided protection against individuals who violated privacy of communication by prohibiting and penalizing wiretapping activities.

This proposed measure seeks to further reinforce a person's right to privacy in communications and correspondence by providing penalties and additional means to make difficult the access of consumers' phone records without their express and proper authorization.

In light of the reasons stated above, I therefore enjoin my colleagues to ensure the immediate approval of this measure into law.


GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
2nd District, Pampanga

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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Protecting Consumers' Phone Records Act of 2016."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure the privacy of communication and correspondence, and to prohibit the unlawful and illegal use of information gathered in violation of this right, and to prohibit the obtaining of customer information from telecommunications carriers by false pretenses, and the sale or disclosure of such records obtained by false pretense,

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this section, the term –

- (1) "IP Enabled Voice Service" – shall mean the provision of real-time 2-way voice communications offered to the public, or such classes of users as to be effectively available to the public, transmitted through customer premises equipment using TCP / IP protocol, or a successor protocol, for a fee (whether part of a bundle of services or separately) with interconnection capability such that the service can originate traffic to, or terminate traffic from, the public switched telephone network.
- (2) "Telecommunications Carrier" – means used to transport, engage and transmit any form of communication to another person or entity.
- (3) "Confidential Phone Record Information" means information that –
 - (a) Relates to the quantity, technical configuration, type destination location, or amount of use of a service offered by a covered entity, subscribed to by any customer of that covered entity, and kept by or on behalf of that covered entity solely by virtue of the relationship between that covered entity and customer;
 - (b) is made available to a covered entity by a customer solely by virtue of the relationship between that covered entity and the customer; or

- (c) is contained in any bill, itemization, or account statement provided to a customer by or behalf of a covered entity solely by virtue of the relationship between that covered entity and the customer.
- (4) "Covered Entity" – includes any provided of IP-enabled voice service.
- (5) "Customer" – means a covered entity, any individual, partnership, association, joint stock company, trust, or corporation, or authorized representative of such customer, to whom the covered entity provides a product or service.
- (6) "Wireless Telephone Number Information" – means the telephone number, electronic address, and any other identifying information by which a calling party may reach a commercial mobile service customer, and which is assigned by a commercial mobile service provider to such customer, and includes the name and address of such customer.
- (7) "Wireless Directory Assistance Service" – means any service for connecting calling parties to a commercial mobile service customer when such calling parties themselves do not possess the wireless telephone number information of such customer.

SECTION 4. *Unauthorized Acquisition, Use, or Sale of Confidential Customer Proprietary Network Telephone Information.* –

(A) In General – It is unlawful for any person –

- (1) To acquire or use the customer proprietary network information and phone records information of another person without the person's affirmative written consent by –
 - (1.1) Making false or fraudulent statements or representations to an employee of covered entity;
 - (1.2) Making such false or fraudulent statements or representations to a customer of a covered entity;
 - (1.3) Providing a document to a covered entity knowing that such document is false or fraudulent; or
 - (1.4) Accessing customer accounts of a covered entity via the Internet, without prior authorization from the customer to whom such confidential phone records information relates.
- (2) To misrepresent that another person has consented to the acquisition or use of such other person's customer proprietary network information and phone records information in order to acquire such information;
- (3) To obtain unauthorized access to the data processing system or records of a telecommunications carrier or an IP-enabled voice service provider in order to acquire the customer proprietary network information and phone records information of one (1) or more other persons;

- (4) To sell, or offer for sale, customer proprietary network information and phone records information; or
- (5) To request that another person obtain customer proprietary network information and phone records information from a telecommunications carrier or IP-enabled voice service provider, knowing that the other person will obtain the information from such carrier or provider in any manner that is unlawful under this subsection.

(B) Exceptions. –

- (1) Application of Other Laws – This Act does not prohibit any act or practice otherwise authorized by law, including any lawfully authorized investigative, protective, or intelligence activity of a law enforcement agency of the Republic of the Philippines, or an intelligence agency of the Republic of the Philippines.
- (2) Caller ID – Nothing in this Act prohibits the use of caller identification services by any person to identify the original of the telephone calls received by that person.

SECTION 5. *Wireless Consumer Privacy Protection.* –

(A) A provider of commercial mobile services, or any direct or indirect affiliate or agent of such a provider, may not provide the wireless telephone number information of any wireless directory assistance service unless the mobile service provider –

- (1) provides a conspicuous, separate notice to the customer informing the customer of the right not to be listed any wireless directory assistance service; and
- (2) obtains express prior authorization for listing from such customer, separate from any authorization obtained to provide such customer with commercial mobile service, or any calling plan or service associated with such commercial mobile service, and such authorization has not been subsequently withdrawn.

(B) Publication of Directories Prohibited – A provider of commercial mobile services, or any direct or indirect affiliate or agent of such a provider, may not publish, in printed, electronic, or other form, or sell or otherwise disseminate, an individual's wireless telephone information held by any wireless directory assistance service, or any portion or segment thereof, unless the mobile service provider –

- (1) Provides a conspicuous, separate notice to the customer informing the customer of the right not to be listed; and
- (2) Obtains express prior authorization for listing from such customer, separate from any authorization obtained to provide such customer with commercial

mobile service, or any calling plan or service associated with such commercial mobile service and such authorization has been subsequently withdrawn.

- (C) No Consumer Fee for Retaining Privacy – A provider of commercial mobile services may not charge any customer for exercising any of the rights described under this subsection

SECTION 6. *Right of Action.* –

(A) Private Right of Action for Providers –

- (1) A telecommunications carrier or IP-enabled voice service provider may bring a civil action in an appropriate court that meets applicable requirements relating to venue under the Rules of Court and any court in which the carrier of service provider resides or conducts business –

(1.1) based on violation of this section of the regulations prescribe under this section to enjoin such violation;

(1.2) to recover for actual monetary loss from such a violation, or to receive Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) in damages for each violation, whichever is greater; of both

- (2) If the court finds that the defendant willfully or knowingly violated this section or the regulations prescribe under this section, the court may, in its discretion, increase the amount of the award to an amount equal to not more than three times the amount available under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(B) Private Right of Action for Consumers –

- (1) In General – An individual who has been injured as a direct result of his or her confidential proprietary network information being obtained, used, or sold in violation of this section may file a civil action in any court of competent jurisdiction against the person who caused the injury by violating this section.

- (2) Remedies – A court in which such civil action has been brought may award damages of not more than Twenty Thousand Pesos (20,000.00) for each violation of this section with respect to the plaintiffs customer proprietary network information.

- (3) If the court finds that the defendant willfully or knowingly violated this section of the regulations prescribe under this section, the court may, in its discretion, increase the amount of award to not more than three (3) times the damages determined by the court under paragraph (2).

(C) Civil Penalty –

- (1) In General – any person who violates this section shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) for each

violation or each day of a continuing violation, except that the amount assessed for any continuing violation shall not exceed a total of amount of Twenty Million Pesos (P20,000,000.00) or any single act failure to act.

- (2) Separate Violations – A violation of this section with respect to the customer proprietary network information of one person shall be treated as separate violation with respect to the customer proprietary network information of any other person.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part thereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or tile provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rules or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (20 newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,