

Committee on Commerce and Tourism

CS/HB 1267 — Telephone Solicitation

by Energy and Utilities Subcommittee and Rep. Killebrew and others (CS/SB 962 by Commerce and Tourism Committee; and Senators Grimsley, Rouson, and Young)

The bill allows telephone service providers to block certain phone calls from ringing through to a telephone service subscriber's phone, if authorized by the subscriber.

Telephone service providers may block “spoofed” calls made from:

- An inbound-only phone number that a subscriber has requested be blocked;
- An invalid phone number;
- A phone number that has not been allocated to a provider by the North American Numbering Plan Administrator; and
- A phone number that is not used by any telephone subscriber, if the telephone service provider confirms that the number is unused.

Telephone service providers may only block calls in a manner that is consistent with authorization from federal laws and rules.

On November 17, 2017, the Federal Communications Commission adopted a rule that provides similar safe harbor provisions to telephone service providers who preemptively block suspected robocalls. This bill provides state-level authorization for the same call blocking services.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2018.

Vote: Senate 37-0; House 113-0