

By Representatives Sanderson and Heyman

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to telecommunications
3 companies; creating s. 364.242, F.S.; providing
4 definitions; requiring that telecommunications
5 companies provide unlisted or unpublished
6 telephone numbers to public safety agencies for
7 use in emergency notification; specifying that
8 a public records exemption applies to such
9 numbers; authorizing such agencies to provide
10 such numbers to certain private entities for
11 such purpose; requiring such entities to
12 maintain the confidentiality of such numbers;
13 providing a penalty; providing an effective
14 date.

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16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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18 Section 1. Section 364.242, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 364.242 Provision of unlisted telephone numbers for
21 use in emergency notification.--

22 (1) As used in this section:

23 (a) "Public safety agency" means the state or any
24 county, municipality, special district, or other public
25 authority which provides, or has authority to provide,
26 firefighting, law enforcement, medical, environmental safety,
27 or other emergency services.

28 (b) "Unlisted or unpublished telephone number" means a
29 telephone number assigned to a subscriber by a
30 telecommunications company which is not published in the
31 directory furnished by the company.

1 (2) Upon the written request of a public safety
2 agency, a telecommunications company shall provide to the
3 agency a list of unlisted or unpublished telephone numbers
4 within a specified area. These unlisted or unpublished
5 telephone numbers may be used by the public safety agency only
6 for the purpose of communicating to telephone subscribers an
7 imminent threat to life or property. Pursuant to s.
8 119.07(3)(r), such unlisted or unpublished telephone numbers
9 obtained by a public safety agency under this section are
10 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I
11 of the State Constitution.

12 (3) A public safety agency may make unlisted or
13 unpublished telephone numbers available to a private
14 for-profit entity operating under contract with, and at the
15 direction of, the agency for the sole purpose of communicating
16 to telephone subscribers an imminent threat to life or
17 property. The private entity and its officers and employees
18 must keep such numbers confidential. Any officer or employee
19 of such private entity who willfully and knowingly discloses
20 or uses such telephone numbers for any purpose other than
21 communicating to telephone subscribers an imminent threat to
22 life or property commits a misdemeanor of the first degree,
23 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

24 Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1 of the
25 year in which enacted.

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HOUSE SUMMARY

Requires telecommunications companies to provide unlisted or unpublished telephone numbers to specified public safety agencies for use in communicating an imminent threat to life or property, and specifies that an existing public records exemption applies to such numbers. Authorizes such agencies to provide such numbers to private entities with which they contract for such notification and requires the private entities to maintain the confidentiality of such numbers. Provides a penalty for disclosure of such numbers by such private entities.