

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2687 Session of
2006

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SURRA, THOMAS, TIGUE, WALKO, WOJNAROSKI AND YOUNGBLOOD,
MAY 15, 2006

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS, MAY 15, 2006

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for the offense of unlawful
3 procurement, sale or receipt of telephone records.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes
7 is amended by adding a section to read:

8 § 4121. Unlawful procurement, sale or receipt of telephone
9 records.

10 (a) Offense--Any person who:

11 (1) knowingly procures, attempts to procure or solicits
12 or conspires with another to procure a telephone record of a
13 resident of this Commonwealth without the authorization of
14 the customer to whom the record pertains by fraudulent,
15 deceptive or false means;

1 (2) knowingly sells or attempts to sell a telephone
2 record of a resident of this Commonwealth without the
3 authorization of the customer to whom the record pertains; or

4 (3) receives a telephone record of a resident of this
5 Commonwealth knowing that the record has been obtained
6 without the authorization of the customer to whom the record
7 pertains or by fraudulent, deceptive or false means
8 shall be punished in accordance with subsection (b) and shall
9 be liable for restitution in accordance with subsection (c).

10 (b) Grading.--An offense under subsection (a) is:

11 (1) A misdemeanor of the first degree if the offense
12 involves a single telephone record.

13 (2) A felony of the third degree if the offense involves
14 two to ten telephone records of a resident of this
15 Commonwealth.

16 (3) A felony of the second degree if the offense
17 involves more than ten telephone records of a resident of
18 this Commonwealth.

19 (c) Forfeiture and restitution.--In addition to the
20 penalties set forth under subsection (b), a person who commits
21 an offense under subsection (a) shall be ordered by the court:

22 (1) To forfeit any personal property used or intended to
23 be used to commit the offense.

24 (2) To make restitution for any financial loss sustained
25 by the customer or any other person who suffered financial
26 loss as a direct result of the offense.

27 (d) Jurisdiction and venue.--In a prosecution brought
28 pursuant to subsection (a), the conduct shall be considered to
29 have been committed in the county:

30 (1) where the customer whose telephone record is the

1 subject of the prosecution resided at the time of the
2 offense; or

3 (2) in which any part of the offense took place,
4 regardless of whether the defendant was ever actually present
5 in the county.

6 (e) Nonexclusivity.--A prosecution brought pursuant to
7 subsection (a) shall not prevent prosecution pursuant to any
8 other provision of law when the conduct also constitutes a
9 violation of such other provision.

10 (f) Nonapplicability.--This section shall not apply to:

11 (1) A person who acts pursuant to a valid court order,
12 warrant or subpoena.

13 (2) A telephone company or any of its agents or
14 representatives who reasonably and in good faith acts
15 pursuant to paragraph (1), notwithstanding any later
16 determination that such action was not in fact authorized.

17 (g) Construction.--No provision of this section shall be
18 construed to:

19 (1) Prevent any action by a law enforcement agency, or
20 any officer, employee or agent thereof to obtain telephone
21 records in connection with the performance of the official
22 duties of the law enforcement agency.

23 (2) Apply to or expand the obligations and duties of a
24 telephone company to protect telephone records beyond those
25 otherwise established by Federal or State law or as set forth
26 in subsection (i).

27 (3) Prohibit a telephone company from obtaining, using,
28 disclosing or permitting access to a telephone record, either
29 directly or indirectly through its agents:

30 (i) as otherwise authorized by law;

1 (ii) with the lawful consent of the customer;
2 (iii) as may be necessarily incident to the
3 rendition of the service or to the protection of the
4 rights or property of the telephone company or to protect
5 the customer of those services and other carriers from
6 fraudulent, abusive or unlawful use of or subscription to
7 such services;

8 (iv) to a governmental entity, if the telephone
9 company reasonably believes that an emergency involving
10 immediate danger of death or serious physical injury to
11 any person justifies disclosure of the information; or

12 (v) to the National Center for Missing and Exploited
13 Children, in connection with a report submitted thereto
14 under law.

15 (h) Information security.--

16 (1) A telephone company that maintains telephone records
17 of a resident of this Commonwealth shall establish reasonable
18 procedures to protect against unauthorized or fraudulent
19 disclosure of the records which could result in substantial
20 harm or inconvenience to any customer.

21 (2) No private right of action is authorized under this
22 subsection.

23 (i) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
24 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
25 subsection:

26 "Customer." A person who subscribes to telephone service
27 from a telephone company or in whose name such telephone service
28 is listed.

29 "Procure." In regard to a telephone record, to obtain by any
30 means, whether electronically, in writing or in oral form, with

1 or without consideration.

2 "Telephone." A device used by a person for voice
3 communications, in connection with the services of a telephone
4 company, whether the voice communications are transmitted in
5 analog, data or any other form.

6 "Telephone company." A person who provides commercial
7 telephone services to a customer, irrespective of the
8 communications technology used to provide the service,
9 including, but not limited to, traditional wireline or cable
10 telephone service; cellular, broadband PCS or other wireless
11 telephone service; microwave, satellite or other terrestrial
12 telephone service; and voice over Internet telephone service.

13 "Telephone record." Information retained by a telephone
14 company that relates to the telephone number dialed by the
15 customer, or other person using the customer's telephone with
16 the customer's permission, or the incoming number of a call
17 directed to a customer, or other person using the customer's
18 telephone with the customer's permission, or other data related
19 to such calls typically contained on a customer's telephone bill
20 such as the time the call started and ended, the duration of the
21 call, the time of day the call was made and any charges applied.
22 The term does not include any information collected and retained
23 by a customer utilizing caller identification or other similar
24 technology.

25 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.