



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 979

PRINTERS NO. 1136

PRIME SPONSOR: Boback

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2017/18	FY 2018/19
General Fund	See Fiscal Impact	See Fiscal Impact

SUMMARY:

House Bill 979, Printer's Number 1136 amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) by adding a new Section 4121 (False caller identification information display).

ANALYSIS:

HB 979 amends the Crimes Code by adding a new criminal offense that states a person may not, with the intent to defraud, harass or cause harm; make a call or engage in conduct that results in false caller identification on a recipient's telephone.

This provision of law will not apply to the following:

- The blocking of caller identification information;
- Any law enforcement agency of the Federal, State, county or municipal government;
- Any intelligence or security agency of the Federal government
- A telecommunications, broadband or Voiceover Internet Protocol service provider that is:
 - acting in its capacity as an intermediary for the transmission of telephone service between the caller and recipient;
 - providing or configuring a service or service feature as requested by a customer;
 - acting in a manner that is authorized or required by applicable law; or
 - engaging in other conduct that is a necessary incident to the provision of service.

This legislation would be effective in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Enactment of this legislation would have an unknown fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. An individual who violates this new Section commits a misdemeanor of the third degree (punishable by up to 1 year in prison and/or a fine of up to \$2,500) for the first offense and a misdemeanor of the second degree (punishable up to 2 years in prison and/ or a fine of up \$5,000) for second and subsequent offenses. Limited data makes it difficult to determine how many individuals may be arrested, tried and convicted and sentenced for this new offense.

PREPARED BY: Jenny P. Stratton
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: February 5, 2018

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.