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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Harrisburg

COMMITTES
Education
Human Services
Insurance
Urban Affairs

MEMORANDUM

DATE:

February 2, 2011

TO:

All House Members

FROM:

Representative Justin Simmons

131st Legislative District

SUBJECT:

Co-Sponsorship - False Caller Identification

In the near future I will be re-introducing legislation from last session (HB 2064) that will prevent false caller identification. Current technology allows a person, either through a computer program or with specific equipment, to change the caller identification information that is displayed on a telephone. The change of identification allows these individuals to make it seem as if someone else were calling which would lead the recipient of the call to possibly divulge information they normally would not.

This legislation will make it illegal for a person who is intending to defraud someone to cause false caller identification information to be displayed on a recipient's telephone. A person who commits a violation, in addition to any other penalty imposed, is guilty of a third degree misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail and/or up to a \$2,500 fine for a first offense. A person who commits a second or subsequent offense is guilty of a second degree misdemeanor punishable by up to 2 years in jail and/or up to a \$5,000 fine. This section will not apply to the blocking of caller identification information, law enforcement agencies, intelligence, security agencies of the Federal Government or a telecommunications, broadband or voice-over-internet service provider that is acting solely as an intermediary for the transmission of telephone service between the caller and the recipient.

If you would like to become a co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Lori McCauslin via phone at: 783-1673 or via email at: lmccausl@pahousegop.com.