
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1545 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY MARSHALL, BOYD, CALTAGIRONE, CARROLL, CAUSER,
CHRISTIANA, COHEN, D. COSTA, P. COSTA, COX, CUTLER, DALEY,
DAY, DeLUCA, DePASQUALE, DONATUCCI, DUNBAR, GEORGE, GERBER,
GIBBONS, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, HARHAI, HARRIS,
HENNESSEY, JOSEPHS, KAVULICH, W. KELLER, KILLION, KNOWLES,
KOTIK, KRIEGER, KULA, MARSICO, MASSER, MATZIE, McGEEHAN,
MILLER, MOUL, MULLERY, M. O'BRIEN, PETRARCA, PYLE, QUIGLEY,
RAPP, READSHAW, ROAE, ROCK, SAINATO, SAYLOR, K. SMITH,
SONNEY, STERN, TALLMAN, TAYLOR, THOMAS, TRUITT AND
VULAKOVICH, MAY 12, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MAY 12, 2011

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 4, 1996 (P.L.911, No.147), entitled
2 "An act providing for registration requirements for
3 telemarketers and for powers and duties of the Office of
4 Attorney General," further providing for definitions and for
5 registration requirement; and providing for unwanted
6 automatic political calls.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The definition of "list administrator" in section
10 2 of the act of December 4, 1996 (P.L.911, No.147), known as the
11 Telemarketer Registration Act, amended September 12, 2003
12 (P.L.105, No.22), is amended and the section is amended by
13 adding definitions to read:

14 Section 2. Definitions.

15 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
16 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the

1 context clearly indicates otherwise:

2 "Automatic dialing-announcing device." A device that selects
3 and dials telephone numbers and that, working alone or in
4 conjunction with other equipment, disseminates a prerecorded or
5 synthesized voice message to the telephone number called.

6 "Automatic political call." The use of an automatic dialing-
7 announcing device on behalf of any of the following:

8 (1) A candidate as defined in section 102(a) of the act
9 of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania
10 Election Code; a party as defined in section 102(n) of the
11 Pennsylvania Election Code; or a political body as defined in
12 section 102(p) of the Pennsylvania Election Code.

13 (2) A political committee as defined in section 1621(h)
14 of the Pennsylvania Election Code.

15 (3) A political organization as defined in section
16 527(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (Public Law
17 99-514, 26 U.S.C. § 1 et seq.).

18 * * *

19 "List administrator." [A nonprofit] An organization, as
20 designated by contract entered into by the Director of the
21 Bureau of Consumer Protection in the Office of Attorney General,
22 that accepts individual names, addresses and telephone numbers
23 of persons who do not wish to receive telephone solicitation
24 calls and that has been in existence for ten or more years. In
25 the event that the Federal Trade Commission and/or Federal
26 Communications Commission establish a unified national No Call
27 Registry for the purpose of providing consumers with protection
28 from receiving unwanted telephone solicitation calls similar to
29 the protection provided in this act, then the Director of the
30 Bureau of Consumer Protection in the Office of Attorney General

1 may enter into an agreement to utilize the services of the
2 administrator of any such national No Call Registry in lieu of
3 using [any nonprofit] an organization.

4 * * *

5 Section 2. Section 3 of the act is amended to read:

6 Section 3. Registration requirement.

7 (a) General rule.--In addition to any other requirements
8 imposed by law, a telemarketer or the telemarketing business
9 which employs the telemarketer is required to register with the
10 Office of Attorney General at least 30 days prior to offering
11 for sale consumer goods or services through any medium. This
12 section will not apply, however, to persons or businesses
13 licensed by or registered with a Federal or Commonwealth agency
14 or to a person or business conducting telemarketing exclusively
15 through the use of automatic political calls. Notwithstanding
16 any other provision of this act, any business which provides
17 telemarketing services to other entities and has been under the
18 same ownership and control for less than five years shall
19 register under this section.

20 (b) Unlawful conduct.--It shall be unlawful for any
21 telemarketer to initiate a telephone call to or receive a
22 telephone call from a consumer in connection with the purchase
23 of consumer goods or services unless the telemarketer or the
24 telemarketing business which employs the telemarketer is
25 registered with the Office of Attorney General.

26 (c) Penalty.--Failure to register as required by this act
27 constitutes a misdemeanor of the second degree.

28 Section 3. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

29 Section 5.3. Unwanted automatic political calls.

30 (a) General rule.--

1 (1) Except as set forth in subsection (b), beginning 30
2 days after publication of the notice under paragraph (3), a
3 person may not initiate or cause to be initiated an automatic
4 political call to a residential or wireless telephone number
5 of a telephone subscriber who does not wish to receive
6 automatic political calls and has caused the subscriber's
7 name, address and telephone number to be enrolled on a do-
8 not-call list for automatic political calls maintained by a
9 list administrator.

10 (2) The list under paragraph (1) shall be developed and
11 maintained separately from the list established under section
12 5.2.

13 (3) The list under paragraph (1) shall be completed six
14 months after the effective date of this section. The list
15 administrator shall transmit a notice of completion to the
16 Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the
17 Pennsylvania Bulletin.

18 (4) A residential telephone subscriber's name shall be
19 maintained on the list under paragraph (1) as long as the
20 telephone number is valid for the subscriber.

21 (5) The Office of Attorney General may serve as the list
22 administrator for purposes of this subsection.

23 (6) If the Office of Attorney General does not serve as
24 the list administrator for purposes of this subsection, the
25 list administrator shall provide the list under paragraph (1)
26 to the Office of Attorney General on a biannual basis.

27 (b) Exceptions.--Subsection (a)(1) shall not apply to a call
28 on behalf of a political candidate, political party or political
29 body made by an individual and not by an automatic dialing-
30 announcing device.

1 (c) Listings.--A person that makes automatic political calls
2 shall:

3 (1) obtain on a biannual basis a listing of residential
4 or wireless telephone subscribers in this Commonwealth who
5 have arranged to have their names, addresses and telephone
6 numbers enrolled on the list under subsection (a)(1); or
7 (2) use a service provider who has obtained the list
8 under subsection (a)(1) in order to restrict the use of
9 automatic political calls.

10 (d) Fee limitation.--A list administrator may not impose a
11 fee for a copy of the list under subsection (a)(1) which
12 exceeds:

13 (1) the cost incurred by the list administrator in the
14 production, preparation and distribution of the list; or
15 (2) the fee authorized by 16 CFR § 310.8(c) (relating to
16 fee for access to the National Do Not Call Registry).

17 (e) Restriction.--A person may not use the list under
18 subsection (a)(1) for any purpose other than to remove a
19 residential or wireless telephone subscriber from a call list.

20 (f) Investigation, enforcement and reporting.--
21 Investigation, enforcement and reporting shall be conducted in
22 accordance with section 5.2(k).

23 (g) Violation.--A violation of this section shall constitute
24 an unlawful act under section 3 of the act of December 17, 1968
25 (P.L.1224, No.387), known as the Unfair Trade Practices and
26 Consumer Protection Law.

27 Section 4. This act shall take effect immediately.