

~~FOR the purpose of providing certain penalties for a violation of a prohibition on the use of automated telephone address signaling systems for certain purposes; requiring senders of certain automated dialing, push button, or tone activated address signaling calls to disconnect certain prerecorded message machines at within a certain time; providing a certain exception exceptions; and generally relating to the use of certain automated telephone address signaling systems.~~

FOR the purpose of clarifying that the use of an automated telephone address signaling system for certain purposes is prohibited unless there is a certain business relationship with, or consent from, the person called; providing a penalty for a violation of a prohibition on the use of automated telephone address signaling systems for certain purposes; requiring senders of certain automated dialing, push-button, or tone-activated address signaling calls to disconnect certain prerecorded message machines at a certain time; providing a certain exception; and generally relating to the use of certain automated telephone address signaling systems.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article 78 – Public Service Commission Law
Section 55C
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1988 Replacement Volume and 1989 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 78 – Public Service Commission Law

55C.

(A) A UNLESS THERE IS AN EXISTING BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP WITH, OR THE CONSENT OF, THE RECIPIENT OF THE CALL, A person may not utilize an automated dialing or push-button or tone-activated address signaling system with a prerecorded message for the sole purpose of soliciting persons to purchase goods or services, or requesting survey information where results are to be used directly for the purpose of soliciting persons to purchase goods or services.

(B) THE SENDER OF AN AUTOMATED DIALING, PUSH-BUTTON, OR TONE-ACTIVATED ADDRESS SIGNALING CALL SHALL DISCONNECT THE PRERECORDED MESSAGE MACHINE FROM THE RECIPIENT'S TELEPHONE LINE ~~UPON~~ WITHIN 10 SECONDS AFTER UPON THE TERMINATION OF THE CALL BY EITHER THE PERSON CALLING OR THE PERSON CALLED.

(C) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO:

~~(1) AN AGENCY OF FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT THAT USES AN AUTOMATED DIALING PRERECORDED MESSAGE MACHINE FOR EMERGENCY PURPOSES; OR~~

~~(2) ANY PERSON WHO HAS A PREEXISTING BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PERSON CALLED.~~