

**CHAPTER 576**  
**(Senate Bill 79)**

AN ACT concerning

**Telephone Solicitation - Caller Identification Blocking**

FOR the purpose of prohibiting, under certain circumstances, a person engaged in telephone solicitation from intentionally using any device or method to block, or taking any other action to prevent or control, the transmission of the telephone number of that person to a recipient of a telephone solicitation; defining a certain term; providing for certain exceptions; and providing penalties for violations of this Act.

BY adding to

Article - Public Utility Companies  
Section 8-205  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1998 Volume and 2000 Supplement)

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

**Article - Public Utility Companies**

8-205.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION, "TELEPHONE SOLICITATION" MEANS AN ORGANIZED ACTIVITY, PROGRAM, OR CAMPAIGN TO COMMUNICATE BY TELEPHONE WITH RESIDENTS OF MARYLAND IN ORDER TO:

- (I) SELL, LEASE, OR RENT GOODS OR SERVICES;
- (II) ATTEMPT TO SELL, LEASE, OR RENT GOODS OR SERVICES;
- (III) OFFER OR ATTEMPT TO OFFER A GIFT OR PRIZE;
- (IV) CONDUCT OR ATTEMPT TO CONDUCT A POLL; OR

(V) REQUEST OR ATTEMPT TO REQUEST SURVEY INFORMATION, IF THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY WILL BE USED DIRECTLY TO SOLICIT PERSONS TO PURCHASE, LEASE, OR RENT GOODS OR SERVICES.

(2) "TELEPHONE SOLICITATION" INCLUDES THE ACT OF MANAGING, DIRECTING, OR SUPERVISING AN INDIVIDUAL ENGAGED IN TELEPHONE SOLICITATION UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(B) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO:

- (4) A UNIT OF FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, OR