

Annotated Code of Maryland
(1991 Replacement Volume)

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 person may not utilize an automated dialing or push-button or tone-activated address signaling system with a prerecorded message for the purpose of soliciting persons to purchase, lease, or rent goods or services, offering a gift or prize, conducting a poll, or requesting survey information where results are to be used directly for the purpose of soliciting persons to purchase, lease, or rent 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 within [10] 5 seconds after 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, or the consent of, the person called.

(d) A person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$1,000 for the first offense and not exceeding \$5,000 for each additional or subsequent offense.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1992.

Approved May 26, 1992.

CHAPTER 476

(Senate Bill 412)

AN ACT concerning

Consumer Protection Act – Violations – Cease and Desist Orders

FOR the purpose of authorizing the Division of Consumer Protection of the Office of the Attorney General to issue certain cease and desist orders without conducting a prior hearing under certain circumstances; providing certain persons an opportunity to request a hearing after the order is issued; requiring the Division to conduct a