

HOUSE BILL 677

C5

2lr1692

By: **Delegate Davis**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2012

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Utilities – Telephone Service – Charges for Directory Assistance**

3 FOR the purpose of specifying that certain residential customers are entitled to only a
4 certain number of directory assistance calls each month without charge;
5 requiring the Public Service Commission to approve other charges for directory
6 assistance, subject to certain exceptions; repealing a provision that authorizes
7 the Commission to establish additional exemptions from directory assistance
8 charges; and generally relating to telephone service and directory assistance.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Public Utilities
11 Section 8–202
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Public Utilities**

17 8–202.

18 (a) (1) The Commission may not authorize telephone company charges to
19 be levied for directory assistance calls made by residential customers on the first two
20 calls made to directory assistance from each residential service per monthly billing
21 cycle.

22 (2) [The] **SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE**
23 Commission [may] **SHALL** authorize charges on other directory assistance calls [if the
24 Commission finds, after notice and evidentiary hearing, that the charges:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (i) protect consumers by providing affordable and reasonably
2 priced directory assistance service;

3 (ii) encourage the development of competition; and

4 (iii) are in the public interest].

5 (b) The Commission may not authorize telephone company charges to be
6 levied for directory assistance on an individual who suffers from a physical or visual
7 disability that precludes the use of a telephone directory.

8 [(c) The Commission may provide other exemptions from telephone company
9 charges to be levied for directory assistance if the exemptions are just and reasonable.]

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 October 1, 2012.