

HB 1488 -- TELECOMMUNICATIONS

SPONSOR: Porter

CALL SPOOFING (Sections 407.1095-407.1115, RSMo)

This bill adds call spoofing, as defined in the bill, as a method of telephone solicitation prohibited under provisions of law relating to the telemarketing no-call list and modifies that law so that it applies to business subscribers as well as residential subscribers.

The bill also establishes the "Caller ID Anti-Spoofing Act", which creates the offense of unlawful caller identification spoofing. A person commits such offense if he or she enters or causes to be entered, false information into a caller ID service with the intent to deceive, defraud, or mislead the recipient of the call, or the person places a call knowing that false information was entered into a caller ID service with the intent to deceive, defraud, or mislead the recipient of the call. The offense is a class E felony.

Call recipients may bring action as members of a class, and the Attorney General may initiate legal proceedings or intervene in legal proceedings on behalf of call recipients.

BROADBAND INTERNET GRANT PROGRAM (Sections 620.2456 & 620.2460)

This bill provides that the Department of Economic Development shall not award any grant funding when funds have already been awarded by the Connect America Fund and the Rural Digital Opportunity Funds.

Further, the bill provides that federal funds received by the state or political subdivision through the American Recovery Plan or other federal COVID-19 Relief legislation appropriated specifically for the construction of broadband Internet infrastructure shall be in or otherwise serve an "unserved area" or "underserved area" and the project will provide broadband Internet service to customers at certain speeds as provided in the bill. The Office of Broadband Infrastructure shall certify the project prior to a political subdivision receiving authorization. Prior to certifying a project, the Office of Broadband Infrastructure shall notify each Internet service provider in the area of the project and such Internet service provider may submit a challenge to the proposal as provided in the bill.

This bill is similar to SCS HCS HB 242 (2021).