

**As Introduced**

**132nd General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2017-2018**

**H. B. No. 597**

**Representatives Faber, Dever**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Brinkman, Roegner, Koehler, Becker, Anielski,  
Green, Henne, Hoops, DeVitis**

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**A BILL**

To enact section 2913.50 of the Revised Code to 1  
create the offenses of theft or conversion of a 2  
telephone number or exchange and providing 3  
misleading caller identification information. 4

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That section 2913.50 of the Revised Code be 5  
enacted to read as follows: 6

**Sec. 2913.50.** (A) As used in this section, "voice over 7  
internet protocol service" has the same meaning as in section 8  
4927.01 of the Revised Code. 9

(B) No person, in connection with any telecommunication 10  
service or voice over internet protocol service, shall knowingly 11  
cause any caller identification service to transmit either of 12  
the following: 13

(1) Information using or repeating a telephone number or 14  
exchange that is not assigned to the person; 15

(2) Misleading or inaccurate caller identification 16

information, knowing that the caller identification information 17  
is misleading or inaccurate, and knowing that the misleading or 18  
inaccurate caller identification information will defraud or 19  
cause harm to the recipient or that the person will wrongfully 20  
obtain anything of value. 21

(C) (1) Whoever violates division (B) (1) of this section is 22  
guilty of theft or conversion of a telephone number or exchange. 23  
Whoever violates division (B) (2) of this section is guilty of 24  
providing misleading caller identification information. 25

(2) Except as otherwise provided in division (C) (3) of 26  
this section, theft or conversion of a telephone number or 27  
exchange is a felony of the fifth degree and providing 28  
misleading caller identification information is a felony of the 29  
fourth degree. 30

(3) (a) If the victim of theft or conversion of a telephone 31  
number or exchange is an elderly person, disabled adult, active 32  
duty service member, or spouse of an active duty service member, 33  
a violation of division (B) (1) of this section is theft or 34  
conversion of a telephone number or exchange against a person in 35  
a protected class, a felony of the fourth degree. 36

(b) If the victim of providing misleading caller 37  
identification information is an elderly person, disabled adult, 38  
active duty service member, or spouse of an active duty service 39  
member, a violation of division (B) (2) of this section is 40  
providing misleading caller identification information against a 41  
person in a protected class, a felony of the third degree. 42

(D) This section does not apply if the person uses a 43  
telephone number that is identified as "unknown" or "blocked" or 44  
if the person leaves a message and includes the person's 45

identity.

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(E) A violation of this section shall be considered an  
unfair or deceptive act or practice in violation of section  
1345.02 of the Revised Code. A person injured by a violation of  
this section shall have a cause of action and be entitled to the  
same relief available to a consumer under section 1345.09 of the  
Revised Code, and all powers and remedies available to the  
attorney general to enforce sections 1345.01 to 1345.13 of the  
Revised Code are available to the attorney general to enforce  
this section. A conviction or plea of guilty to a violation of  
this section is not necessary to prevail in such an action, but  
such a conviction or plea of guilty creates an irrebuttable  
presumption of the violation in such a cause of action.

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(F) In addition to any remedies of which a consumer is  
entitled, a consumer who obtains goods or services as a result  
of a violation of this section may keep those goods or services  
without an obligation to pay for those goods or services and the  
offender shall not raise a claim for such payment against the  
consumer.

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