

Act No. 234  
Public Acts of 1998  
Approved by the Governor  
July 2, 1998  
Filed with the Secretary of State  
July 3, 1998

EFFECTIVE DATE: 91st day after final adjournment of 1998 Regular Session

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
89TH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 1998

**Introduced by Reps. DeHart, Kelly, Mans, Hale, Hanley, McBryde, Goschka, Scott, Parks and Brater**

# **ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 4694**

AN ACT to amend 1913 PA 206, entitled "An act to declare telephone lines and telephone companies within this state to be common carriers; to regulate the telephone business; to confer certain powers, duties, and responsibilities on the public service commission; to provide for the consolidation of telephone lines and telephone companies; to prohibit certain uses of telephone lines and telephone equipment; to regulate persons using telephone lines and telephone equipment; to prescribe a penalty for the violation of this act; and to repeal certain acts and parts of acts on specific dates," by amending section 25 (MCL 484.125), as added by 1980 PA 47.

*The People of the State of Michigan enact:*

Sec. 25. (1) As used in this section:

(a) "Caller" means an individual, corporation, firm, partnership, association, or legal or commercial entity who attempts to contact or who contacts a subscriber in this state via telephone or by using a telephone line.

(b) "Subscriber" means an individual who has subscribed to residential, business, or toll-free telephone service from a telephone company regulated by this state, and all other persons with the same legal residence as the subscribing individual.

(2) A caller shall not use a telephone line to contact a subscriber at the subscriber's residence, business, or toll-free telephone number to deliver a recorded message for the purpose of presenting commercial advertising to the subscriber, unless either of the following occurs:

(a) The subscriber has knowingly and voluntarily requested, consented, permitted, or authorized the contact from the caller.

(b) The subscriber has knowingly and voluntarily provided his or her telephone number to the caller.

(3) The authorization to contact a subscriber granted under subsection (2)(a) shall not be transferred, assigned, or sold without the written permission of the subscriber.

(4) The use of automated dialing, push button, or tone activated devices which operate sequentially or are otherwise unable to avoid contacting subscribers who have not authorized the contact as provided in subsection (2) is prima facie evidence of an intention to violate this act.

(5) A subscriber contacted by a caller in violation of this section may bring an action to recover damages of \$1,000.00, together with reasonable attorneys' fees.

(6) An employee or officer of a telephone company shall report a person whom the employee or officer in good faith believes may be violating or has violated this act. Alleged violations of this act shall be reported to the county prosecutor for the county in which the violation occurred.

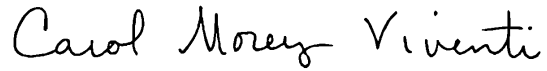
(7) This section does not prohibit the use of automatic dialing equipment for the purpose of advising customers concerning merchandise or goods or services previously ordered.

(8) Recorded commercial advertising that is authorized under this section must end or otherwise free the subscriber's telephone line for incoming and outgoing calls immediately upon the subscriber's termination of the call.

(9) A caller who violated this section is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of \$1,000.00 or imprisonment for 10 days, or both.



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Clerk of the House of Representatives.



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Secretary of the Senate.

Approved -----

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Governor.