

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to direct the Federal Communications Commission to promulgate regulations that require providers of voice service to offer a robocall-blocking service at no additional charge to the customer, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M. _____ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to direct the Federal Communications Commission to promulgate regulations that require providers of voice service to offer a robocall-blocking service at no additional charge to the customer, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the [“_____ Act
5 of 2024”].

1 **SEC. 2. OFFERING OF ROBOCALL-BLOCKING SERVICE AT**
2 **NO CHARGE TO CUSTOMER.**

3 Section 227 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
4 U.S.C. 227) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(k) OFFERING OF ROBOCALL-BLOCKING SERVICE
7 AT NO CHARGE TO CUSTOMER.—

8 “(1) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days
9 after the date of the enactment of this subsection,
10 the Commission shall promulgate regulations that
11 require a provider of voice service to offer a robocall-
12 blocking service to each customer of the provider, at
13 no additional charge to the customer.

14 “(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

15 “(A) ROBOCALL.—

16 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The term
17 ‘robocall’ means a call made or text mes-
18 sage sent—

19 “(I) using equipment, whether
20 hardware, software, or a combination
21 thereof and including an automatic
22 telephone dialing system, that makes
23 a call or sends a text message to—

24 “(aa) stored telephone num-
25 bers; or

1 “(bb) telephone numbers
2 produced using a random or se-
3 quential number generator; or

4 “(II) using an artificial or
5 prerecorded voice or an artificially
6 generated message.

7 “(ii) LIMITATION.—For purposes of
8 clause (i)(I), the term ‘robocall’ does not
9 include a call made or text message sent
10 using equipment that requires substantial
11 human intervention to make or send the
12 call or text message.

13 “(B) ROBOCALL-BLOCKING SERVICE.—The
14 term ‘robocall-blocking service’ means a service
15 that gives a customer of a provider of voice
16 service the ability to block robocalls that are
17 highly likely to be illegal.

18 “(C) TEXT MESSAGE.—

19 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘text
20 message’ means a message consisting of
21 text, images, sounds, or other information
22 that is transmitted to or from a device that
23 is identified as the receiving or transmit-
24 ting device by means of a 10-digit tele-
25 phone number, N11 service code, short

1 code telephone number, or email address,
2 or that is transmitted through application-
3 to-person messaging, and includes—

4 “(I) a short message service
5 (commonly referred to as ‘SMS’) mes-
6 sage;

7 “(II) a multimedia message serv-
8 ice (commonly referred to as ‘MMS’)
9 message; and

10 “(III) a rich communication serv-
11 ice (commonly referred to as ‘RCS’)
12 message.

13 “(ii) LIMITATION.—The term ‘text
14 message’ does not include a real-time, two-
15 way voice or video communication.

16 “(D) VOICE SERVICE.—The term ‘voice
17 service’ has the meaning given such term in
18 section 4(a) of the Pallone-Thune TRACED
19 Act (47 U.S.C. 227b(a)).”.