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S.B. 224
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Passed by the Senate

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Gavarone

Logan Briggs, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Replaces exemptions for certain voice service providers from the prohibition against providing substantial assistance or support to telemarketers violating federal law with exemptions for certain telecommunications carriers and issuers of securities.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Violations of federal telemarketing laws

Continuing law prohibits any person, entity, merchant, seller, or telemarketer from engaging in any act or practice in violation of a federal act or rule. Furthermore, it prohibits any person from providing substantial assistance or support to any person, entity, merchant, seller, or telemarketer when the person knows, or consciously avoids knowing, that other person, entity, merchant, seller, or telemarketer is engaged in any act or practice that violates any provision of a federal act or rule.¹

Current law exempts from the meaning of “substantial assistance or support” the provision of a voice service to a third party by a voice service provider if one or more of the following are true:

- The voice service provider is not designated as a noncooperative carrier by the consortium registered with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to trace the origin of suspected unlawful robocalls;
- The network of the voice service provider does not originate the voice service or text messaging service;

¹ R.C. 109.87(B)(1) and (2)(a).

- The network of the voice service provider is not the first domestic provider handling the voice service or text messaging service that originates outside of the United States.²

The bill removes these exemptions, and replaces them with an exemption from the meaning of “substantial assistance or support” for the provision of a voice service to a third party by a person that is any of the following:

- Operating as an incumbent local exchange carrier, which is a person engaged in the provision of telephone exchange service who provided telephone exchange service in an area on February 8, 1996, and who, on that date, became a member of the National Exchange Carrier Association established by the FCC, or, on or after that date, became a successor or assign of a member of the association;³
- Operating as a telephone company or wireless service provider that is certified or registered with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO);⁴
- Operating as a telecommunications carrier designated by PUCO as eligible for universal-service funding, meaning that carrier can receive funds from the FCC’s Universal Service Fund to support the provision of universal services like telephone service and high-speed internet;⁵
- An issuer of a class of securities which are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including any subsidiary entity in which the issuer owns more than 75% of the ownership, voting, or similar interests.⁶

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	06-18-25
Reported, S. Judiciary	10-29-25
Passed Senate (33-0)	11-05-25

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² R.C. 109.87(B)(2)(b); 47 Code of Federal Regulation (C.F.R.) 64.1203, not in the bill.

³ R.C. 109.87(B)(2)(b)(i); R.C. 4927.01(A)(5) and 47 C.F.R. 69.601(b), not in the bill.

⁴ R.C. 109.87(B)(2)(b)(ii); R.C. 4927.05, not in the bill.

⁵ R.C. 109.87(B)(2)(b)(iii); R.C. 4927.04(D) and 47 United States Code (U.S.C.) 214(e), not in the bill.

⁶ R.C. 109.87(B)(2)(b)(iv); 15 U.S.C. 78l, not in the bill.