

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2479

As Reported by House Committee On:
Technology, Energy & Communications

Title: An act relating to disclosure of wireless numbers.

Brief Description: Requiring subscribers' consent to disclosure of wireless phone numbers.

Sponsors: Representatives Morrell, Bailey, Cody, Pedersen, Appleton, Sells, Lantz, Hasegawa, Ormsby, Conway, Condotta, Hurst, McIntire, Roberts, Kenney, Haigh, Schual-Berke, Campbell, VanDeWege, Rolfes, Kagi, Chase, Lias, Simpson, Barlow, Ericks, Green, Kelley and McDonald.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Technology, Energy & Communications: 1/16/08, 1/22/08 [DPS].

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Extends the wireless phone directory restrictions in current law that apply to wireless phone companies to cover any person in the primary business of marketing, selling, and sharing wireless phone numbers for commercial purposes.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY, ENERGY & COMMUNICATIONS

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 8 members: Representatives McCoy, Chair; Eddy, Vice Chair; Hudgins, Hurst, Kelley, Morris, Takko and Van De Wege.

Minority Report: Without recommendation. Signed by 4 members: Representatives Crouse, Ranking Minority Member; McCune, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Hankins and Herrera.

Staff: Kara Durbin (786-7133).

Background:

In 2005 the Legislature passed Substitute House Bill 1185 which prohibited wireless telephone companies from publishing a subscriber's wireless phone number in a directory

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available on original bill. Revised fiscal note requested on January 22, 2008.

Effective Date of Substitute Bill: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) A person's private wireless number should be kept private. When we passed the original legislation in 2005, we did not anticipate that a third party could compile wireless phone numbers from other sources and then sell those phone numbers. We do not want domestic violence victims or seniors to have their phone numbers exploited.

(In support with amendment) We supported the legislation in 2005 and believe the same standard should apply to third parties. We support this bill, provided that amendatory language is offered to cover phone numbers that have been published in the yellow pages or phone numbers that have already been included in a wireless company's directory.

(With concerns) Our company does not sell cell phone numbers, but we do deliver products on cell phones and personal digital assistants (PDAs). Our customers sign for service and provide consent at that time, but not in the same format that is prescribed in existing law.

(Opposed) Our company focuses on providing protection and safety services. We are not against regulation in this area, but we do oppose this bill. Our system is used frequently by parents to look up an unknown phone number or learn more information about a potential nanny. Some customers use our system to track down old friends. We do not sell our phone numbers to other companies. Our data comes from a variety of public record sources. This is a very complex issue and we want to be part of the solution.

Persons Testifying: (In support) Representative Morrell, prime sponsor.

(In support with amendment) Dan Youmans, AT&T.

(With concerns) Scott Hazelgrove, Yahoo!

(Opposed) Ed Petersen, Intelius and Ryan Pennington, MWW Group.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.