
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 579 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY SABATINA, FONTANA, TARTAGLIONE, COSTA, SCHWANK AND
RAFFERTY, APRIL 5, 2017

REFERRED TO CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
APRIL 5, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 66 (Public Utilities) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in alternative form of regulation of
3 telecommunications services, providing for voluntary
4 suspension of service.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Title 66 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
8 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

9 § 3020. Voluntary suspension of service.

10 (a) General rule.--At the request of the customer, telephone
11 service providing residential service may be temporarily
12 suspended without loss of the telephone number for a period of
13 one month up to a maximum of one year.

14 (b) Information.--Prior to the suspension of telephone
15 service under this section, the customer requesting a voluntary
16 suspension of service shall be provided information stating that
17 during the voluntary suspension of service the telephone line
18 will not be operational.

1 (c) Telephone number.--The customer's right to retain the
2 customer's telephone number during a period of voluntary
3 suspension of service is subject to the telephone company's
4 right to change numbers under circumstances that would have
5 called for a number change while the telephone service was
6 active.

7 (d) Rate.--

8 (1) A voluntary suspension of service rate may be
9 charged during this period of voluntary suspension. The
10 voluntary suspension of service rate may not exceed \$5 per
11 month.

12 (2) No other rates, fees or charges may be imposed for a
13 voluntary suspension of service.

14 (3) A voluntary suspension of service rate shall be
15 adopted as a separate tariff.

16 (e) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
17 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
18 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

19 "Basic service." The transmission of messages or
20 communications by telephone between points within a local
21 calling area as established in the tariff of an LEC.

22 "LEC." A public utility that provides basic service either
23 exclusively or in addition to toll service.

24 "Residential service." Telephone service supplied to a
25 dwelling, including service provided to a location used for both
26 residential and commercial purposes if no concurrent commercial
27 service is provided. The term does not include telephone service
28 provided to a hotel or motel.

29 "Telephone company." A public utility that provides
30 telephone service subject to the jurisdiction of the commission.

1 "Telephone service." Transmission of messages or
2 telecommunications by telephone. The term includes basic service
3 and toll service.

4 "Toll service." The transmission of messages or
5 communications by telephone between points that are not both
6 within a local calling area as established in the tariff of an
7 LEC.

8 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.