

Chapter 186

(House Bill 124)

AN ACT concerning

Public Utilities – Telephone Service – Charges for Directory Assistance

FOR the purpose of specifying that certain residential customers are entitled to only a certain number of directory assistance calls each month without charge; requiring the Public Service Commission to approve other charges for directory assistance, subject to a certain exception; repealing a provision that authorizes the Commission to establish additional exemptions from directory assistance charges; and generally relating to telephone service and directory assistance.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Public Utilities

Section 8–202

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2010 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Public Utilities

8–202.

(a) (1) The Commission may not authorize telephone company charges to be levied for directory assistance calls made by residential customers on the first two calls made to directory assistance from each residential service per monthly billing cycle.

(2) [The] **SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE Commission [may] SHALL** authorize charges on other directory assistance calls [if the Commission finds, after notice and evidentiary hearing, that the charges:

(i) protect consumers by providing affordable and reasonably priced directory assistance service;

(ii) encourage the development of competition; and

(iii) are in the public interest].

(b) The Commission may not authorize telephone company charges to be levied for directory assistance on an individual who suffers from a physical or visual disability that precludes the use of a telephone directory.

[(c) The Commission may provide other exemptions from telephone company charges to be levied for directory assistance if the exemptions are just and reasonable.]

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2013.

Approved by the Governor, May 2, 2013.