

HOUSE BILL 936: Robocall Solicitation Modifications.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee: House Commerce and Economic Date: April 29, 2025

Development. If favorable, re-refer to Judiciary 3. If favorable, re-refer to Rules,

Calendar, and Operations of the House

OVERVIEW: House Bill 936 would:

• Apply the rules for telephone solicitations to robocalls, text messages, and texting applications.

- Require prior express written consent to authorize any telephone solicitation.
- Prohibit impersonation of government officials as part of a telephone solicitation.
- Apply civil penalties for each violation within a single telephone solicitation.

CURRENT LAW: Article 4 of Chapter 75 regulates telephone solicitations, including automatic dialing and recorded message players. Civil penalties apply for violations of the telephone solicitation Article.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 936 would expand the coverage of the State telephone solicitations Article related to artificially generated communications from "automatic dialing and recorded message player" to robocalls, text messages, and texting applications. Specifically, a robocall is defined as a voice communication that delivers artificial, artificially generated, or prerecorded voice messages, including spam and scam text messages received by a telephone subscriber through a messaging application.

House Bill 936 would replace the current "express invitation or permission" to authorize a solicitation with "prior express written consent." Prior express written consent requires an agreement, in writing, bearing the telephone number an signature of the telephone subscriber that clearly authorizes the solicitation. The agreement must:

- Apply to a single person.
- Be obtained after clear and conspicuous disclosure that the telephone subscriber will receive future calls on behalf of a specific seller.
- Have a signature recognized as a valid signature under applicable federal or State law.
- Be nontransferable.

House Bill 936 would also specifically prohibit impersonation of government officials as part of a telephone solicitation and apply civil penalties for each violation within a single telephone solicitation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: House Bill 936 would be effective October 1, 2025.

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