

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-EIGHTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2003

707I0332

SENATE BILL NO. 41

Introduced by: The Committee on Commerce at the request of the Public Utilities
Commission

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to provide for the creation of a no solicitation calls list for
2 persons wishing not to receive unsolicited telephone calls, to create a telephone solicitation
3 account, and to establish certain fees and civil penalties.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

5 Section 1. That § 49-31-1 be amended to read as follows:

6 49-31-1. Terms used in this chapter mean:

- 7 (1) "Addressable," enabling users to connect and communicate with a specific party easily
8 and securely on a dial-up, addressable basis;
- 9 (2) "Available," ensuring that network services are available if the user requires them,
10 even at times of peak usage; designed to be a nonblocking network, minimizing
11 network contention;
- 12 (3) "Broadband network," the broadband network extends the range of fully switched,
13 addressable, robust transport services over the fiber network which increase in
14 multiples of OC-1 (51.84 Mbps), including OC-3 (155.52 Mbps) and OC-12 (622.08
15 Mbps);



- 1 (4) "Centron and centron-like services," services which provide custom switching features
2 which include distributive dial tone, select number screening, toll restriction and
3 screening, nonattendant busy out, nonattend and call transfer, and select trunk hunting
4 and screening;
- 5 (5) "Commission," the Public Utilities Commission;
- 6 (6) "Common carrier," anyone who offers telecommunications services to the public;
- 7 (7) "Eligible telecommunications carrier," a local exchange carrier designated by the
8 commission pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e) as of January 1, 1998, as eligible to
9 receive universal service support funding;
- 10 (8) "Feature rich," providing the specific features and functionality required by users'
11 voice, data, video, graphics, imaging, and multimedia applications; functionally
12 beyond mere transport;
- 13 (9) "Incumbent local exchange carrier," a local exchange carrier, including successors and
14 assigns, which was providing local exchange service within a defined service area in
15 this state on or before February 8, 1996;
- 16 (10) "Interexchange telecommunications service," telecommunications service between
17 points in two or more exchanges;
- 18 (11) "LATA," a local access and transport area;
- 19 (12) "Local exchange area," a any geographic area established by a local exchange carrier
20 as filed with or approved by the commission for the administration of local
21 telecommunications service which may consist of one or more central offices or wire
22 centers together with associated facilities used in furnishing telecommunications
23 service in that area;
- 24 (13) "Local exchange service," the access to and transmission of two-way switched

- 1 telecommunications service within a local exchange area;
- 2 (14) "Narrowband network," a fully switched digital network covering the transport range
3 from 0 to 144,000 bits per second (144 Kbps), offering two 64 Kbps information B
4 (Bearer) channels and a 16 Kbps signaling D (Delta) channel;
- 5 (15) "New products and services," any new product or service introduced after July 1,
6 1988, which is not functionally required to provide local exchange service.
7 Repackaging of any product or service which is fully competitive with any service
8 regulated as emerging competitive or noncompetitive is not considered a new product
9 or service;
- 10 (16) "Optional service," a any limited or discretionary service offered by a
11 telecommunications company which is not functionally required for the provision of
12 noncompetitive services and which the customer has the option to purchase;
- 13 (17) "Private," ensuring confidentiality and integrity of network transport of messages
14 without dependency on specialized customer premise security devices;
- 15 (18) "Rate of return regulation," the procedure used by the commission to approve the
16 charge for a service which gives due consideration to the public need for adequate,
17 efficient, and reasonable service and to the need of the public utility for revenues
18 sufficient to enable it to meet its total current cost of furnishing such service, including
19 taxes and interest, and including adequate provision for depreciation of its utility
20 property used and necessary in rendering service to the public, and to earn a fair and
21 reasonable return upon the value of its property;
- 22 (19) "Register," a list of names, addresses, and telephone numbers of residential telephone
23 subscribers who have properly enrolled with the commission to prevent unsolicited
24 telephone calls;

1 (20) "Residential telephone subscriber," any person residing in the state who has residential
2 telephone service;

3 (21) "Robust," easily and economically sustaining the rigors of growth and extensive public
4 use;

5 ~~(20)~~(22) "Rural telephone company," a any local exchange company as defined in 47
6 U.S.C. § 153(37) as of January 1, 1998;

7 ~~(21)~~(23) "Secure," physically precluding unwanted access to network and information;

8 ~~(22)~~(24) "Service area," a geographic area established by the commission for the
9 purpose of determining universal service obligations and support mechanisms.
10 For a rural telephone company, the service area is the company's study area or
11 any other area designated jointly by the commission and the Federal
12 Communications Commission pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(5) as of
13 January 1, 1998;

14 ~~(23)~~(25) "Standard," supporting universal interfaces and networking standards and
15 protocols of generally accepted standards setting bodies;

16 ~~(24)~~(26) "Switched," providing circuit, packet, or channel type switching, each suited
17 to specific application requirements;

18 ~~(25)~~(27) "Switched access," ~~an~~ any exchange access service purchased for the
19 origination and termination of interexchange telecommunications services
20 which includes central office switching and signaling, local loop facility, or
21 local transport;

22 ~~(26)~~(28) "Telecommunications company," any person or municipal corporation owning,
23 operating, reselling, managing, or controlling in whole or in part, any
24 telecommunications line, system, or exchange in this state, directly or

1 indirectly, for public use. For purposes of this definition the term, for public
2 use, means for the use of the public in general or for a specific segment of the
3 public, or which connects to the public in general or for a specific segment of
4 the public, or which connects to the public switched network for access to any
5 telecommunications service;

6 ~~(27)~~(29) "Telecommunications service," the transmission of signs, signals, writings,
7 images, sounds, messages, data, or other information of any nature by wire,
8 radio, lightwaves, electromagnetic means, or other similar means. It does not
9 include the provision of terminal equipment used to originate or terminate such
10 service, broadcast transmissions by radio, television, and satellite stations
11 regulated by the Federal Communications Commission and one-way cable
12 television service;

13 (30) "Telephone solicitation call," any call made by a telephone solicitor, originating from
14 South Dakota or elsewhere, for the purpose of soliciting a sale of any consumer
15 goods or services to the person called, for the purpose of soliciting an extension of
16 credit for consumer goods or services to the person called, or for the purpose of
17 obtaining information that may be used for the direct solicitation of a sale of consumer
18 goods or services to the person called or an extension of credit for such purposes;

19 (31) "Telephone solicitor," any person or organization who individually or through
20 salespersons, makes or causes to be made a telephone solicitation call. This term does
21 not include any not-for-profit or charitable organization exempt from federal income
22 taxation pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as of
23 January 1, 2003;

24 (32) "Unsolicited telephone call," any telephone solicitation call other than a call made:

- 1 (a) In response to an express request of the person called;
- 2 (b) Primarily in connection with an existing debt or contract, payment or
- 3 performance of which has not been completed at the time of such call;
- 4 (c) To any person with whom the telephone solicitor has an existing business
- 5 relationship; or
- 6 (d) By a newspaper publisher or such publisher's agent or employee in connection
- 7 with such publisher's business;

8 ~~(28)~~(33) "Wideband network," the wideband network extends the range of fully
 9 switched, digital, addressable information transport from the 144 Kbps to the
 10 DS3 rate of 44.736 Mbps, including the DS1 and DS2 rates of 1.544 Mbps and
 11 6.312 Mbps, respectively.

12 Section 2. That chapter 49-31 be amended by adding thereto a NEW SECTION to read as
 13 follows:

14 Any telephone solicitor who makes unsolicited telephone calls shall institute procedures that
 15 comply with the provisions of this Act for obtaining a list of persons who do not wish to receive
 16 unsolicited telephone calls made by or on behalf of the telephone solicitor. No telephone solicitor
 17 who makes unsolicited telephone calls may call any number listed on the register. The
 18 commission may promulgate rules, pursuant to chapter 1-26, concerning procedures and
 19 requirements regarding the implementation of a register, setting of fees for purchase of the
 20 register, form of the application, requirements for acquiring a copy of the register, requirements
 21 for enrollment on and removal from the register, procedures for maintaining a register,
 22 procedures for operating the register, standards concerning the use of the register, and
 23 application of the civil fines.

24 Section 3. That chapter 49-31 be amended by adding thereto a NEW SECTION to read as

1 follows:

2 The commission shall maintain a register of names, addresses, and telephone numbers of each
3 South Dakota residential telephone subscriber who has elected not to receive unsolicited
4 telephone calls.

5 Section 4. That chapter 49-31 be amended by adding thereto a NEW SECTION to read as
6 follows:

7 Any telephone solicitor who makes unsolicited telephone calls to South Dakota residential
8 telephone subscribers shall obtain a copy of the register from the commission. Each telephone
9 solicitor shall submit an application to the commission to obtain a copy of the register.

10 Section 5. That chapter 49-31 be amended by adding thereto a NEW SECTION to read as
11 follows:

12 Any telephone solicitor who makes unsolicited telephone calls to South Dakota residential
13 telephone subscribers shall pay to the commission an annual fee of not more than five hundred
14 dollars. Fees collected under this section shall be credited to the telephone solicitation account
15 which is hereby established in the state treasury. Any interest earned on money in the fund shall
16 be deposited in the fund. The money is continuously appropriated to the use of the commission
17 to implement and administer the provisions of this Act.

18 Section 6. That chapter 49-31 be amended by adding thereto a NEW SECTION to read as
19 follows:

20 The commission shall establish and provide for the operation of a register. The register may
21 be operated by the commission or by another entity under contract with the commission. A
22 residential telephone subscriber may enroll on the register in accordance with procedures
23 prescribed by the commission. No fee may be charged to the residential telephone subscriber to
24 enroll on the register.

1 Section 7. That chapter 49-31 be amended by adding thereto a NEW SECTION to read as
2 follows:

3 Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 49-1A, the commission may use amounts
4 deposited in the gross receipts tax fund to implement this Act. All funds used shall be returned
5 to the gross receipts tax fund within three years of implementation of the register.

6 Section 8. That chapter 49-31 be amended by adding thereto a NEW SECTION to read as
7 follows:

8 Any telecommunications company that provides local exchange service shall inform its
9 customers of the provisions of this Act by publication of the notice in the consumer pages of its
10 telephone directories.

11 Section 9. That chapter 49-31 be amended by adding thereto a NEW SECTION to read as
12 follows:

13 Any person who violates this Act or any rules promulgated pursuant to this Act is subject
14 to a civil penalty to be imposed by the commission, after notice and opportunity for hearing. The
15 commission may impose a civil fine of not more than five thousand dollars for each offense. In
16 determining the amount of the penalty upon finding a violation, or the amount of a compromise
17 settlement, the commission shall consider the appropriateness of the penalty to the size of the
18 business of the person charged, prior offenses and compliance history, and the good faith of the
19 person charged in attempting to achieve compliance. Any penalty collected pursuant to this
20 section shall be credited to the telephone solicitation account established pursuant to section 5
21 of this Act.