
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



Memo published: September 16, 2019

Contact: Peggy Hurley, Staff Attorney

2019 Assembly Bill 147

Assembly Amendment 1

2019 ASSEMBLY BILL 147

2019 Assembly Bill 147 prohibits “spoofing” by telephone solicitors and by members of the general public. Under the bill, a telephone solicitor may not block a caller identification record or knowingly transmit a misleading or inaccurate caller identification record. A person who is not a telephone solicitor may not knowingly transmit a misleading or inaccurate caller identification record with the intent to defraud, cause harm, or wrongfully obtain anything of value.

The bill’s provisions regarding spoofing do not apply to law enforcement activities or to actions undertaken pursuant to a court order. Violations incur a forfeiture of not less than \$100 or more than \$10,000 for each violation.

The bill also allows a telecommunications service provider to block the transmission of a phone call (except a call to 911) under any of the following circumstances: (1) the customer to which the originating number is assigned has requested that calls purporting to originate from that number be blocked; (2) the call purports to be from an invalid or unassigned telephone number; (3) the call purports to be from a telephone number that is allocated to the provider who wishes to block the call and the provider confirms the number is not being used; or (4) the call purports to be from a telephone number that is allocated to a different provider and the provider who wishes to block the call confirms that the number is not used.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 removes from the bill the provisions that allow a telecommunications service provider to block the transmission of a telephone call under certain circumstances and inserts a nonstatutory provision stating that Wisconsin recognizes that telecommunications service providers have the ability, under federal law and regulation, to block calls under the same circumstances as were addressed in the bill.

BILL HISTORY

Representative Sanfelippo offered Assembly Amendment 1 on September 10, 2019. On September 12, 2019, the Assembly Committee on Consumer Protection recommended adoption of the amendment and passage of the bill, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 9; Noes, 0.

PJH:ksm