ASSEMBLY, No. 3027

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 16, 2016

Sponsored by:
Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER
District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS
Directs BPU to undertake public awareness campaign concerning telecommunications carriers, including mobile and Voice over Internet Protocol service providers, and disclosure of customer information.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
As introduced.
AN ACT concerning telecommunications carriers and customer information and supplementing Title 48 of the Revised Statutes.

1. As used in P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill):
   “Board” means the Board of Public Utilities.
   “Customer proprietary network information” shall have the same meaning as provided in subsection (h) of section 222 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. c.222(h)).
   “Telecommunications carrier” means a telephone company regulated as a public utility under Title 48 of the Revised Statutes, an interexchange telecommunications carrier and a local exchange telecommunications company as those terms are defined in section 2 of P.L.1991, c.428 (C.48:2-21.17), a provider of VoIP service as that term is defined in section 3 of P.L.2007, c.195 (C.48:17-34), or a mobile telecommunications company as that term is defined in section 1 of P.L.2004, c.48 (C.52:17C-17), and that conducts business in the State.

2. a. The Board of Public Utilities, in consultation with the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety, shall develop and undertake a public awareness campaign to promote awareness among State residents about the disclosure of customer proprietary network information by a telecommunications carrier. The campaign may incorporate print and electronic media.
   b. The public awareness campaign shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
      (1) a comprehensive summary of State and federal law concerning the disclosure of customer proprietary network information by a telecommunications carrier;
      (2) the circumstances under which a telecommunications carrier may disclose customer proprietary network information; and
      (3) information on accessing and understanding the privacy policies of a telecommunications carrier.
   c. The board shall make available electronically on its website information about State and federal law concerning the disclosure of customer proprietary network information by a telecommunications carrier.

3. The board shall develop and adopt regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), requiring telecommunications carriers, except Voice over Internet Protocol service providers, to conspicuously display a summary of the carrier’s privacy policy on the periodic bill of each customer and to conspicuously display the carrier’s privacy policy in 10-point bold-faced type in customer contracts for telecommunications service.
4. This act shall take effect on the 60th day after the date of enactment.

STATEMENT

This bill directs the Board of Public Utilities (BPU), in consultation with the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety, to develop a public awareness campaign to promote awareness among State residents about the disclosure of customer proprietary network information by telecommunications carriers. The campaign may include print and electronic media.

The public awareness campaign that the BPU is directed to develop includes, but is not limited to, the following information:

1. A comprehensive summary of State and federal law concerning the disclosure of customer proprietary network information by telecommunications carriers;
2. The circumstances under which a telecommunications carrier may disclose customer proprietary network information; and
3. Information on accessing and understanding the privacy policies of telecommunications carriers.

This bill directs the board to make available electronically on its website information about State and federal law concerning the disclosure of customer proprietary network information by telecommunications carriers.

This bill also directs the BPU to develop regulations requiring telecommunications carriers, except Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service providers, to conspicuously display a summary of the carrier’s privacy policy on the monthly bill of each customer and to conspicuously display the carrier’s privacy policy in 10-point bold-faced type in customer contracts for telecommunications service.

In this bill, “customer proprietary network information” is defined the same as is provided in federal law and “telecommunications carrier” is defined as a telephone company regulated as a public utility under Title 48 of the Revised Statutes, an interexchange telecommunications carrier and a local exchange telecommunications company, a VoIP service provider, or a mobile telecommunications carrier as those terms are defined in State law and that conducts business in the State.