

## ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 128

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 14, 1996

By Assemblymen DiGAETANO, FELICE, Augustine and Bateman

- 1 AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION memorializing the President and Congress of the  
2 United States to require the Federal Communications Commission to  
3 approve the assignment of new area codes specifically designated for  
4 facsimile machines, modems, cellular phones and pagers.  
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- 6 WHEREAS, The Federal Communications Commission has previously rejected  
7 the assignment of area codes specifically for facsimile machines, modems,  
8 cellular phones and pagers, ruling that such a designation based on  
9 technology is discriminatory; and
- 10 WHEREAS, The State of New Jersey is rapidly running out of its supply of  
11 telephone numbers due to the growth of technologies, such as facsimile  
12 machines, cellular phones, modems and pagers, and the opening of local  
13 telephone markets to competition; and
- 14 WHEREAS, The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities recently approved  
15 adding two new area codes in the State through the method known as a  
16 "geographic split," which will divide the 908 and 201 area code regions,  
17 allowing half the customers to retain their area code and phone numbers  
18 while assigning the others a new area code, and resulting in the splitting of  
19 21 municipalities into two zones; and
- 20 WHEREAS, The Board of Public Utilities' recent action creating two new area  
21 code regions is a temporary fix to this State's chronic telephone number  
22 shortage because it is expected that the 609 area code, which covers the  
23 southern part of the State, will need an additional area code by 1998; and
- 24 WHEREAS, The geographic split method is considered by some to be more  
25 costly and disruptive to customers than the alternative of a new area code  
26 overlay, which would have resulted in a new area code over the 908 and  
27 201 regions and would have required 10-digit dialing for every telephone  
28 call in those regions; and
- 29 WHEREAS, The designation of area codes based on specific technologies will  
30 result in less confusion and inconvenience than the full overlay method  
31 because, rather than all new telephone numbers receiving a new area code,  
32 specific area codes will be designated for specified purposes; and
- 33 WHEREAS, It is appropriate and in the public interest for this House to urge the  
34 President and Congress of the United States to require the Federal  
35 Communications Commission to approve the assignment of new area

1 codes based on specific technologies; now, therefore,

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3 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

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5 1. This House memorializes the President and Congress of the United  
6 States to require the Federal Communications Commission to approve the  
7 assignment of new area codes specifically for facsimile machines, modems,  
8 cellular phones and pagers.

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10 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of  
11 the General Assembly and attested to by the Clerk of the General Assembly,  
12 shall be transmitted to the President and Vice President of the United States,  
13 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the chairs of the appropriate  
14 standing committees of Congress, each member of Congress elected thereto  
15 from New Jersey, and the Chairman of the Federal Communications  
16 Commission.

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STATEMENT

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21 This resolution memorializes the President and Congress of the United  
22 States to require the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to approve  
23 the assignment of new area codes specifically for facsimile machines, modems,  
24 cellular phones and pagers. Previously, the FCC has rejected the assignment  
25 of area codes to specific technologies, ruling that such a designation based on  
26 technology is discriminatory.

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32 Memorializes President and Congress to require FCC to approve technology-  
based area code designations.