

SENATE, No. 1681

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 7, 1996

By Senators SCOTT, SINAGRA, Haines, Kosco, Kyrillos, Cafiero, Singer, Bennett, Palaia, Cardinale, McNamara, Ciesla, Sacco, Matheussen, Inverso, Connors, Baer, Adler, Rice, Girgenti, Casey, O'Connor and Codey

1 **AN ACT** concerning telephone area codes and supplementing Title 48
2 of the Revised Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Area Code
8 Integrity Act."

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10 2. The Board of Public Utilities, hereinafter, "the board," shall
11 require telephone companies that assign telephone area codes not to
12 assign more than one area code to a single municipality in this State.

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14 3. a. The board shall establish, within 90 days of the effective date
15 of this act, in rules and regulations adopted pursuant to the provisions
16 of the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1
17 et seq.), the criteria and procedures to be utilized in making a
18 determination concerning a plan filed with the board by a telephone
19 company to assign telephone area codes in this State.

20 b. The criteria to be adopted by the board pursuant to this section
21 shall include, but need not be limited to, specifications that:

22 (1) prohibit the splitting of a single municipality into two or more
23 area codes;

24 (2) preclude overlaying or superimposing an additional area code
25 on one or more municipalities which have an existing area code;

26 (3) promote effective competition among telephone companies
27 seeking to provide telephone services within specific geographic areas,
28 classes of customers or types of services;

29 (4) facilitate customer access to, and ease of use of, the services to
30 be provided by telephone companies to residences and businesses; and

31 (5) expand the use of the latest available technology to provide
32 telephone services within specific geographic areas, classes of
33 customers or types of services.

34 c. The board shall utilize the criteria adopted pursuant to this

1 section in making a determination concerning a new area code plan
2 submitted to it by a telephone company.

3 d. Any order issued by the board after September 1, 1996,
4 concerning the approval of a new area code plan submitted to it by a
5 telephone company prior to the effective date of this act, shall be
6 reconsidered by the board after the adoption of the rules and
7 regulations pursuant to this section in order to effectuate the goals and
8 requirements of this section and of section 2 of this act.

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10 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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15 This bill mandates that the Board of Public Utilities require
16 telephone companies assigning new area codes not to assign more than
17 one area code to a single municipality in this State.

18 The bill requires the board to adopt rules and regulations pursuant
19 to the "Administrative Procedure Act," to establish the criteria to be
20 used by the board when reviewing area code plans submitted to it by
21 telephone companies. The bill requires the board to utilize the criteria
22 in order to effectuate the purpose of section 2 of the bill to prohibit
23 the assignment of more than one area code to a single municipality.

24 The criteria to be used by the board shall include, but need not be
25 limited to, specifications prohibiting splitting a municipality into two
26 or more area codes, precluding overlaying a new area code on a
27 municipality with an existing area code, promoting effective
28 competition among telephone companies, facilitating access to and
29 ease of use of telephone services by customers, and expanding the use
30 of latest available technology to provide telephone services.

31 The bill also provides that if the board has issued an order after
32 September 1, 1996 concerning the approval of a new area code plan
33 submitted prior to the effective date of the bill, the board shall
34 reconsider the order, after adopting the rules and regulations under
35 section 3 of the bill, in order to effectuate the goals of section 2 of the
36 bill.

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41 Requires the BPU to prohibit telephone companies from assigning
42 more than one area code to a single municipality.