

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 76

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 10, 1997

By Senator McGREEVEY

- 1 **A SENATE 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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19 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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31 Memorializes President and Congress to require FCC to approve technology-
32 based area code designations.