

103<sup>D</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. 2526

To prohibit any charges on telephone bills for calls to 800 numbers.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 6 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 12), 1994

Mr. HARKIN (for himself and Mr. SIMON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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## A BILL

To prohibit any charges on telephone bills for calls to 800 numbers.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4       The Congress finds the following:

5               (1) Reforms required by the Telephone Disclo-  
6       sure and Dispute Resolution Act (Public Law 102–  
7       556) have improved the reputation of the pay-per-  
8       call industry and resulted in regulations that have  
9       reduced the incidence of misleading practices that  
10      are harmful to the public interest.

1           (2) Among the successful reforms is a prohibi-  
2           tion on charges being assessed for calls to 800 tele-  
3           phone numbers or other telephone numbers adver-  
4           tised or widely understood to be toll free.

5           (3) Nevertheless, certain interstate pay-per-call  
6           businesses are taking advantage of an exception in  
7           the prohibition on charging for information conveyed  
8           during a call to a “toll-free” number to continue to  
9           engage in misleading practices. These practices are  
10          not in compliance with the intent of Congress in  
11          passing the Telephone Disclosure and Dispute Reso-  
12          lution Act.

13          (4) Therefore, it is necessary for Congress to  
14          clarify that its intent is that charges for information  
15          provided during a call to an 800 number or other  
16          number widely advertised and understood to be toll  
17          free shall not, under any circumstances, be included  
18          or transmitted with a bill for telephone services.

19 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO THE COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF**  
20 **1934.**

21          (a) AMENDMENT.—Section 228(c)(6)(C) of the Com-  
22          munications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 228(c)(6)(C)) is  
23          amended by inserting before the semicolon the following:  
24          “, except that nothing in this paragraph shall permit the  
25          calling party to be charged for the information or the call

1 by means of a charge included on, or transmitted with,  
2 a bill for telephone exchange service or telephone toll serv-  
3 ice''.

4 (b) REGULATIONS.—The Federal Communications  
5 Commission shall revise its regulations to comply with the  
6 amendment made by subsection (a) of this section within  
7 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

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