



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Raised Bill No. 6683

LCO No. 3704

Referred to Committee on Energy and Technology

Introduced by:
(ET)

**AN ACT CONCERNING RIGHTS OF CONSUMERS IN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS TRANSACTIONS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 16-256j of the general statutes is repealed and the following
2 is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) All bills for telecommunications services, whether issued by a
4 telecommunications company, including, but not limited to, a certified
5 telecommunications provider, or by a billing service, shall (1) contain
6 the name of each carrier providing service as well as a toll-free number
7 for customer complaints for each such carrier printed clearly and
8 conspicuously on the portion of the bill relating to each carrier; (2)
9 clearly disclose optional charges and the specific services for which
10 those charges are assessed; (3) clearly disclose charges for
11 telecommunication services on a unit-of-time-used basis or a monthly,
12 annual or periodic basis; (4) clearly disclose any rate that is for a
13 limited period of time and is used to entice consumers to use such
14 service that the rate is a promotional rate and the date on which the
15 rate is no longer effective; and (5) only label a charge as a tax if such
16 tax is directly assessed by the taxing entity on the consumer through

17 the telecommunications company, which tax shall appear as a separate
18 charge on such bill.

19 (b) A telecommunications company shall provide customers with
20 written notice of any increase in rates for telecommunications services
21 not less than thirty days prior to the effective date of such increase. For
22 purposes of this subsection "rates for telecommunications services"
23 does not include taxes. The notice may be included in the bill sent to
24 the customer for telecommunications services.

Statement of Purpose:

To require clear disclosure of telecommunications charges on consumer bills and to require telecommunications companies to provide thirty days notice of any increase in long distance rates charged to consumers.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]