

H.829

Introduced by Representatives Cina of Burlington, Arsenault of Williston,
Burrows of West Windsor, Critchlow of Colchester, Galfetti of
Barre Town, Logan of Burlington, McGill of Bridport, Page of
Newport City, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford,
Rachelson of Burlington, Sibia of Dover, and Tomlinson of
Winooski

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Telecommunications; robocalls; artificial voice; notification

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require a
caller who makes a robocall that uses an artificial voice to provide to the
person called notice of such use and further requires that the notice shall be by
means of an unrecorded, natural voice announcement.

An act relating to notification of robocalls that use an artificial voice

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 9 V.S.A. § 2464f is added to read:

§ 2464f. ROBOCALLS; ARTIFICIAL VOICE; NOTIFICATION

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

1 (1) “Artificial intelligence” means an engineered or machine-based
2 system that varies in its level of autonomy and that can, for explicit or implicit
3 objectives, infer from the input it receives how to generate outputs that can
4 influence physical or virtual environments.

5 (2) “Artificial voice” means a voice that is generated or significantly
6 altered using artificial intelligence.

7 (3) “Automatic dialing-announcing device” means any automatic
8 equipment that incorporates a storage capability of telephone numbers to be
9 called or a random or sequential number generator capable of producing
10 numbers to be called and the capability, working alone or in conjunction with
11 other equipment, to disseminate a prerecorded message to the telephone
12 number called.

13 (b) Notice. Whenever a telephone call is placed through the use of an
14 automatic dialing-announcing device, the device may be operated only after an
15 unrecorded, natural voice announcement has been made to the person called by
16 the person calling. The announcement shall:

17 (1) state the nature of the call and the name, address, and telephone
18 number of the business or organization being represented, if any;

19 (2) inquire as to whether the person called consents to hear the
20 prerecorded message of the person calling; and

1 (3) inform the person called if the prerecorded message uses an artificial
2 voice.

3 (c) Disconnection. The person calling, as described in subsection (a) of
4 this section, shall disconnect the automatic dialing-announcing device from the
5 telephone line upon the termination of the call by either the person calling or
6 the person called.

7 (d) Civil violation.

8 (1) A violation of this section constitutes a violation of section 2453 of
9 this title.

10 (2) Each prohibited telephone call constitutes a separate violation under
11 this subsection.

12 (3)(A) A person who receives a telephone call in violation of this
13 section may bring an action in Superior Court for damages or a civil penalty,
14 injunctive relief, punitive damages in the case of a willful violation, and
15 reasonable costs and attorney's fees.

16 (B) The court may issue an award for the greater of a person's
17 damages or a civil penalty of \$500.00 for a first violation and \$1,000.00 for
18 each subsequent violation.

19 (e) Criminal penalties.

1 (1) A person who commits a knowing and willful violation of this
2 section shall be imprisoned for not more than 90 days or fined not more than
3 \$1,000.00 per violation, or both.

4 (2) Each telephone call constitutes a separate violation under this
5 subsection.

6 (f) Enforcement. The Attorney General shall exercise the Attorney
7 General's authority and discretion to work cooperatively with other state and
8 federal government entities to identify callers who initiate robocalls to
9 consumers in violation of this section and to enforce the provisions of this
10 section regardless of the location of the caller.

11 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

12 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.