

HR 3993

Calling Card Consumer Protection Act

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Nov 3, 2009

Current Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (Jun 24, 2010)

Latest Action: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (Jun 24, 2010)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/house-bill/3993>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Engel, Eliot L. [D-NY-17]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NY • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Burton, Dan [R-IN-5]	R · IN		Jan 29, 2010
Rep. Tsongas, Niki [D-MA-5]	D · MA		May 7, 2010

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 24, 2010
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Reported by	Mar 24, 2010

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 S 562	Related bill	Mar 10, 2009: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (text of measure as introduced: CR S2968-2970)

Calling Card Consumer Protection Act - (Sec. 3) Requires providers or distributors of prepaid calling cards, including cards that use interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) or a successor protocol, to accurately disclose in a clear and conspicuous manner information about: (1) the provider's name, customer service number, and hours of service; (2) the card's number of minutes or dollar value; (3) per minute rates or a toll-free number to obtain rates; (4) fees and charges; (5) time period limits, any predetermined decrease in value over a period of time, and expiration dates; and (6) refund and recharge policies.

Prohibits false, misleading, or deceptive disclosures on any calling card, packaging, advertisement, or related promotional material.

Requires disclosures to be clear and conspicuous and located on the prepaid calling card unless the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) determines otherwise.

(Sec. 4) Treats a violation as an unfair or deceptive act or practice under the Federal Trade Commission Act and requires the FTC to enforce this Act.

(Sec. 5) Authorizes a state to enforce the provisions of this Act through a civil action to: (1) enjoin a practice; (2) enforce compliance; (3) obtain damage, restitution, or other compensation; or (4) obtain other appropriate relief.

Requires a state before bringing such an action to provide the FTC with written notice and a copy of the complaint (unless the provision of notice is not feasible). Authorizes the FTC to intervene in any such action, which shall include the right to: (1) be heard with respect to any matter that arises in the action; (2) remove the action to U.S. district court; and (3) petition for appeal.

(Sec. 6) Applies the provisions of this Act, beginning 180 days after the date on which final regulations are promulgated, to: (1) any prepaid calling card issued or placed into the stream of commerce; and (2) any related advertising, promotion, point-of-sale material, or voice prompt.

(Sec. 7) Prohibits a state, after the date on which final regulations are promulgated, from establishing or continuing any law regarding disclosures to be printed on prepaid calling cards or packaging unless such requirements are identical to the requirements under this Act.

(Sec. 8) Requires studies and reports to Congress by: (1) the Comptroller General on the effectiveness of this Act and its required disclosures; and (2) the FTC on the extent to which the business practices of the prepaid calling card industry exist in the prepaid wireless industry.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 24, 2010:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
- **Jun 23, 2010:** Ms. Matsui moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Jun 23, 2010:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H4698-4701)
- **Jun 23, 2010:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 3993.
- **Jun 23, 2010:** At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.
- **Jun 23, 2010:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H4731-4732)
- **Jun 23, 2010:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 381 - 41 (Roll no. 383).(text: CR H4698-4700)
- **Jun 23, 2010:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 381 - 41 (Roll no. 383). (text: CR H4698-4700)
- **Jun 23, 2010:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jun 15, 2010:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Energy and Commerce. H. Rept. 111-507.
- **Jun 15, 2010:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 290.
- **May 5, 2010:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **May 5, 2010:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **Mar 24, 2010:** Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Mar 24, 2010:** Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee by Voice Vote .
- **Dec 3, 2009:** Subcommittee Hearings Held.
- **Nov 4, 2009:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection.
- **Nov 3, 2009:** Introduced in House
- **Nov 3, 2009:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.