

S 562

Prepaid Calling Card Consumer Protection Act of 2009

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Mar 10, 2009

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (text of measure

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (text of measure as introduced: CR S2968-2970) (Mar 10, 2009)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/senate-bill/562>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Nelson, Bill [D-FL]

Party: Democratic • **State:** FL • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Mar 10, 2009
Sen. Snowe, Olympia J. [R-ME]	R · ME		Mar 10, 2009

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 10, 2009

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 HR 3993	Related bill	Jun 24, 2010: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Prepaid Calling Card Consumer Protection Act of 2009 - Requires the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to require every prepaid telephone calling service provider and prepaid telephone calling card distributor to disclose certain information, including: (1) the number of calling units or minutes of domestic interstate calls provided or the dollar value and the domestic interstate rate per minute; (2) the calling unit or per minute rates for each served international preferred destination; (3) the applicable per minute rates for each served international destination; (4) other material terms and conditions, including regarding fees, policies on refunds, recharges, decrements, and expiration, and time imitations; and (5) a toll-free customer service number and hours.

Makes it unlawful to: (1) deduct anything but the per minute rate and disclosed fees; (2) provide fewer minutes or charge a higher per minute rate than promoted or advertised; (3) provide fewer minutes than the number of minutes announced, promoted, or advertised through any voice prompt; (4) have an expiration date less than one year after first use (or after additional minutes are purchased); (5) charge a fee for an unconnected call; and (6) deduct a per-minute rate in an increment greater than one minute for calls that are less than one full minute (but allows deducting different destination-specific rates for each full minute of calling time in certain circumstances). Prohibits avoiding liability by stating that the terms are subject to fees or charges.

Treats violations as a violation of a rule defining an unfair or deceptive act or practice under specified provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act. Prohibits the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) from exercising any authority given to the FTC under this Act.

Allows state civil enforcement and state laws offering greater protection to consumers.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 10, 2009:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 10, 2009:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S2967-2968)
- **Mar 10, 2009:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (text of measure as introduced: CR S2968-2970)

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