

HR 4319

Calling Card Consumer Protection Act

Congress: 112 (2011–2013, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Mar 29, 2012

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology. (Mar 30, 2012)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/house-bill/4319>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 30, 2012

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Calling Card Consumer Protection Act - Directs the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to promulgate regulations requiring providers and distributors of prepaid calling cards, including cards using interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) or a successor protocol, to accurately disclose applicable terms and conditions. Requires such disclosures to include: (1) the provider's name, customer service telephone 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.

Requires the accuracy of any information provided by a voice prompt relating to remaining card value and minutes.

Prohibits the FCC from specifying the rates, fees, additional charges, or terms and conditions of prepaid calling cards.

Directs the FCC to implement and enforce this Act under the Communications Act of 1934.

Directs the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to consult with the FCC with respect to any FTC rulemakings, regulations, or enforcement concerning prepaid calling cards.

Authorizes states or state-authorized consumer protection agencies to bring civil actions to enjoin or obtain damages or other relief for practices prohibited by this Act. Requires, with respect to any such state action, that the FCC be notified and permitted to intervene.

Prohibits states, during the pendency of any FCC-instituted action for an alleged violation of a regulation promulgated under this Act, from instituting an action under this Act for such alleged violations against any defendant named in the FCC complaint.

Preempts state and political subdivision prepaid calling card disclosure laws, unless such requirements are identical to the regulations promulgated under this Act.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 30, 2012:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.
- **Mar 29, 2012:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 29, 2012:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.