

HR 6836

PHONE Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Dec 14, 2023

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

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology. (Dec 15, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/6836>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Thompson, Mike [D-CA-4]

Party: Democratic • State: CA • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Newhouse, Dan [R-WA-4]	R · WA		Dec 14, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Dec 15, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

## **Preserving Home and Office Numbers in Emergencies Act of 2023 or the PHONE Act of 2023**

This bill restricts the reassignment of wireline (or landline) telephone numbers following the declaration of a major disaster in a given geographic area.

Specifically, for up to two years after a major disaster has been declared, wireline telephone numbers may not be reassigned except at the request of the subscriber. Further, where a subscriber demonstrates that the residence associated with a telephone number is inaccessible or uninhabitable following a disaster, the subscriber may generally cancel their telephone service and resubscribe with the same number at the same address or at a new address. Such cancellations and resubscriptions may not be subject to cancellation or connection fees.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) must publish a list of areas affected by declared disasters, as determined by states, on its website. The bill takes effect 180 days after the FCC determines it is able to publish lists of affected areas in accordance with the bill's requirements.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Dec 15, 2023:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.
- **Dec 14, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Dec 14, 2023:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.