**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 58‑1‑70 SO AS TO PROVIDE A CONTRACT FOR CABLE SERVICE OR CELL PHONE SERVICE MAY NOT REQUIRE A CUSTOMER PROVIDE A CREDIT CARD NUMBER TO RECEIVE SERVICE OR IN CONNECTION WITH AN APPLICATION OR PAYMENT FOR SERVICE, MAY NOT CHARGE A TERMINATION FEE WHEN A CUSTOMER TERMINATES A SERVICE, AND MAY NOT PLACE ANY CHARGE ON A CUSTOMER’S FINAL BILL EXCEPT FOR PAYMENT OF SERVICE ACTUALLY RENDERED, AND TO PROVIDE DEFINITIONS.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Chapter 1, Title 58 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 58‑1‑70. (A) Notwithstanding another provision of law, a contract for cable service or cell phone service may not:

(1) require that a customer provide a credit card number as part of an application for service, as a condition for providing service, or as a condition for making payments for the service;

(2) charge a termination fee when a customer terminates service; and

(3) place any charge on the final bill except for the amount due for service actually rendered.

(B) For the purposes of this section:

(1) ‘cable service’ means a service as defined in Section 58‑12‑300(1);

(2) ‘cable service provider’ means a provider as defined in Section 58‑12‑300(2); and

(3) ‘cell phone service’ means a mobile telecommunications service as defined in Section 58‑9‑2200(5).”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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