

# HOUSE BILL ANALYSIS

## HB 2914

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**Title:** An act relating to telecommunications customers.

**Brief Description:** Creating a telecommunications clearinghouse.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Poulsen, Bush, Ruderman, Morris, DeBolt, Reardon, Kastama, Cooper and Veloria.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY

**Meeting:** January 28, 2000.

**Staff:** Julia Harmatz (786-7135)

#### **Background:**

Some states, such as Wisconsin and California, have contracted with third party web sites to coordinate and maintain their local telephone calling plan information. These websites are referred to as clearinghouses for telecommunication information.

Examples of these sites are:

[www.abelltolls.com](http://www.abelltolls.com)  
[www.trac.org](http://www.trac.org)  
[www.salestar.com](http://www.salestar.com)

The consumer may be requested to input specific information found on their phone bill. The information requested may include the time of day calls are usually placed, duration of average call, and area codes commonly called. Based on the information, the clearinghouse presents tables of information relative to that consumer.

#### **Summary of Bill:**

##### **Attorney General**

The attorney general will establish and manage an internet site that will show calling plans and other telecommunications information. The AG is permitted to contract with a private party to maintain the site.

#### **Information**

The information on the clearinghouse site will include at a minimum:

- Calling plans: residential and business
- interlata and intralata (local access and transport areas) plans; and
- dial around (10-10---).

The clearinghouse will also contain detailed information such as :

- billing increments
- variances in costs due to time of day and week
- monthly charges; and
- periodic minimum costs.

### **The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission**

The commission will provide certain data to the site such as the current:

- federal and state surcharges and fees
- federal and state Universal charges
- explanations of the alternative titles used by companies to identify these charges and fees; and
- complaint contact information.

**Appropriation:** No.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 24, 2000.

**Effective Date of Bill:** This bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.