

2254-S

Sponsor(s): House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives DeBolt, Ruderman, Poulsen, Crouse, Morris, Mielke, Bush, Thomas, Cooper, Reardon, Stensen, Keiser, Lantz, Fisher, McDonald, O'Brien, Lovick, Sullivan, Hurst, Santos, Hankins, Kenney, Wolfe, Ogden, Anderson, Kagi, Constantine, Dickerson, Conway, Linville, Rockefeller, Romero, Veloria, Wood, Ericksen, Edmonds, McIntire, Alexander, Mitchell, K. Schmidt and Esser)

Brief Title: Preventing unauthorized changes to, and unauthorized billing for, telecommunication services.

HB 2254-S.E - DIGEST

(AS OF HOUSE 2ND READING 3/17/99)

Prohibits unauthorized changes to, and unauthorized billing for, telecommunication services.

Finds that changes in the rapidly changing telecommunications market are resulting in new consumer problems.

Finds that unauthorized changes in telecommunications service, known commonly as slamming, and unauthorized billing for service on telecommunications bills, known commonly as cramming, are unfair and deceptive consumer practices.

Declares that consumers should have options available to protect themselves against unauthorized service changes and billings. In addition, current penalties and remedies need to be increased to provide a more effective deterrent to these practices.