

Testimony in Favor of HB 1208-FN:

“AN ACT relative to caller identification requirements for telemarketing calls.”

Rep. Timothy Horrigan (Strafford 10); February 11, 2026

House Commerce Committee

The “Reassigned Numbers Database” could also be called the “Disconnected Numbers Database.” This database has been online since 2021. Telephone companies and similar providers are supposed to report all permanently disconnected numbers to a federal contractor called SomosGov, Inc. (Providers are also supposed to wait at least 45 days before reassigning a disconnected number to a different customer.)

Callers and caller agents are required to regularly cross-check their contact lists against the Reassigned Numbers Database, to make sure they are not mistakenly calling numbers which now belong to someone who has not consented to being called. Checking the RND also prevents you from calling numbers which have been disconnected but not reassigned, but that is less of a problem because you aren’t annoying anyone when you do that, and in theory, you should be immediately deleting all numbers which turn out to be disconnected.

This bill is however directed against a particular type of spam callers who make outgoing calls (usually robocalls) using disconnected numbers as spoofed Caller ID numbers. Those spoofed numbers are always in the recipient’s own area code (or almost always.)

I get dozens of these calls every week, all related to a fairly small assortment of scams. Typically, the contact starts as a robocall using bots with American accents, and if the recipient (e.g., myself) gives the right answer, the call is forwarded to a live call center employee with a strong foreign accent. The employee typically gives a fake American name. One popular fake name is “Brian Wilson,” which makes sense, since no one is more American than the late leader of the Beach Boys. One very odd thing about these calls is that Brian Wilson (or whoever) never makes much effort to engage with the people like me who for whatever reason mistakenly fail to ignore the incoming phone calls. “Brian” almost always hangs up at the first hint of resistance. Even questions as innocuous as “What are you calling me about?” are met with an immediate hang-up. I have concluded that the point of the whole operation is (apparently) to simply make as many phone calls as possible

The call centers appear to be somewhere on the other side of the Earth, probably in India or Pakistan. However, it is still possible that state law could be applied to them. New Hampshire could use the proposed new law in HB 1208 to go after businesses who contract with sleazy overseas call centers to provide low-cost lead-generation services. Also, even though Brian Wilson and his fellow live callers are thousands of miles away, it is possible that some misguided entrepreneurs are hosting the bots here in New Hampshire.

No legitimate businesses will be harmed if HB 1208 becomes law, since using a valid, returnable Caller ID number when making sales calls is a basic telemarketing “best practice.” Also, refraining from calling people 30 times a day who are 100% not interested in buying whatever it is that you are selling is also a basic telemarketing “best practice.”