

# VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2000 SESSION

## CHAPTER 874

*An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 24.2-1014.1, relating to political campaign telephone calls; penalties.*

[H 1141]

Approved April 9, 2000

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 24.2-1014.1 as follows:**

*§ 24.2-1014.1. Identifying persons responsible for campaign telephone calls; penalties.*

*A. As used in this section, the term "campaign telephone calls" means a series of telephone calls, electronic or otherwise, made (i) to twenty-five or more telephone numbers in the Commonwealth, (ii) during the 180 days before a general or special election or during the ninety days before a primary, (iii) conveying or soliciting information relating to any candidate or political party participating in the election or primary, and (iv) under an agreement to compensate the telephone callers.*

*B. It shall be unlawful for any person to make campaign telephone calls without disclosing before the conclusion of each telephone call, information to identify the person who has authorized and is paying for the calls unless such call is terminated prematurely by means beyond the maker's control.*

*The person making the campaign telephone calls shall disclose the following identifying information:*

*1. The name of the candidate if the calls are authorized by the candidate, his campaign committee, or an agent of the candidate or his campaign committee;*

*2. The name of the political party committee if the calls are authorized by that committee or an agent of that committee; or*

*3. If authorized by any person other than a candidate, his campaign committee, or a political party committee or an agent thereof, either:*

*a. In the case of a committee that has filed a statement of organization under § 24.2-908, the full name of the committee and a registration number provided by the State Board, or*

*b. In any other case, the full name and residence address of the individual responsible for the campaign telephone calls.*

*C. It shall be unlawful for any person who contracts for campaign telephone calls to fail to provide to the persons making the telephone calls the identifying information required by this section.*

*D. It shall be unlawful for any person to provide a false or fictitious name or address when providing the identifying information required under subsection B.*

*E. Any person violating any provision of this section shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed twenty-five hundred dollars; and, in the case of a willful violation, he shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The procedure to enforce the civil penalty provided in this section shall be as stated in § 24.2-929. The violation of this section shall not void any election.*