

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 56-479.3, relating to adding*  
3 *telecommunications services that are not authorized by the customer.*

4 [H 204]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 56-479.3 as follows:**8 *§ 56-479.3. Authorization and verification for products, goods, and services to be billed on a*  
9 *telephone bill.*10 *A. As used in this section, unless the context requires otherwise:*11 *"Billing agent" means any entity that submits charges for products, goods, or services to the billing*  
12 *carrier on behalf of itself or any service provider.*13 *"Billing carrier" means any telephone company that issues a telephone bill directly to customers.*14 *"Service provider" means any entity that offers products, goods, and services to a customer and that*  
15 *directly or indirectly charges to or collects from a customer's bill received from a billing carrier an*  
16 *amount for such products, goods, or services.*17 *B. This section does not apply to (i) products, goods, or services offered by or bundled with the*  
18 *services of a telephone company or its affiliates; (ii) telephone calls that are customer initiated by*  
19 *dialing 1+, 0+, 0-, or 1010XXX or that a customer accepts as collect; or (iii) commercial mobile radio*  
20 *services.*21 *C. No service provider or billing agent shall willfully (i) add products, goods, or services not*  
22 *authorized by any customer or (ii) charge or attempt to collect charges from any customer for any such*  
23 *products, goods, or services without the customer's authorization. A customer is not liable for an*  
24 *amount charged through a billing carrier by a service provider or a billing agent without the*  
25 *authorization of the customer.*26 *D. A service provider or billing agent shall obtain verification of a customer's authorization before*  
27 *submitting charges for products, goods, or services directly or indirectly to the billing carrier. The*  
28 *verification may be in written, oral, or electronic form and shall be verified by an independent third*  
29 *party. The service provider shall retain the verification for a minimum of two years.*30 *E. A billing carrier shall not enter into an agreement to bill for any charges for products, goods, or*  
31 *services for a service provider or billing agent unless that agreement requires the service provider or*  
32 *billing agent to comply with D.*

ENROLLED

HB204ER