

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4709

To amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen protections for law enforcement officers and the public by providing criminal penalties for the fraudulent acquisition or unauthorized disclosure of phone records.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 8, 2006

Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. CANNON, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. HERSETH, and Mr. REICHERT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen protections for law enforcement officers and the public by providing criminal penalties for the fraudulent acquisition or unauthorized disclosure of phone records.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Law Enforcement and
5 Phone Privacy Protection Act of 2006”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) telephone records can be of great use to
2 criminals because the information contained in call
3 logs may include a wealth of personal data;

4 (2) call logs may reveal the names of telephone
5 users' doctors, public and private relationships, busi-
6 ness associates, and more;

7 (3) call logs are typically maintained for the ex-
8 clusive use of phone companies, their authorized
9 agents, and authorized consumers;

10 (4) telephone records have been obtained with-
11 out the knowledge or consent of consumers through
12 the use of a number of fraudulent methods and de-
13 vices that include but are not limited to—

14 (A) telephone company employees selling
15 data to unauthorized data brokers;

16 (B) “pretexting”, whereby a data broker or
17 other person represents they are an authorized
18 consumer and convinces an agent of the tele-
19 phone company to release the data; or

20 (C) gaining unauthorized Internet access
21 to account data by improperly activating a con-
22 sumer's account management features on a
23 phone company's webpage or contracting with
24 an Internet-based data broker who trafficks in
25 such records; and

1 (5) the unauthorized disclosure of telephone
2 records not only assaults individual privacy but, in
3 some instances, may further acts of domestic vio-
4 lence, compromise the personal safety of law enforce-
5 ment officers, their families, or confidential inform-
6 ants, and undermine the integrity of law enforce-
7 ment investigations.

8 **SEC. 3. FRAUD AND RELATED ACTIVITY IN CONNECTION**
9 **WITH OBTAINING CONFIDENTIAL PHONE**
10 **RECORDS INFORMATION OF A COVERED EN-**
11 **TITY.**

12 Chapter 47 of title 18, United States Code, is amend-
13 ed by inserting after section 1038 the following:

14 **“§ 1039. Fraud and related activity in connection**
15 **with obtaining confidential phone**
16 **records information of a covered entity**

17 “(a) CRIMINAL VIOLATION.—Whoever knowingly and
18 intentionally obtains, or attempts to obtain, confidential
19 phone records information of a covered entity, by—

20 “(1) making false or fraudulent statements or
21 representations to an employee of a covered entity;

22 “(2) making such false or fraudulent state-
23 ments or representations to a customer of a covered
24 entity;

1 “(3) providing a document to a covered entity
2 knowing that such document is false or fraudulent;
3 or

4 “(4) accessing customer accounts of a covered
5 entity via the Internet without prior authorization
6 from the customer to whom such confidential
7 records information relates;

8 shall be fined under this title, imprisoned for not more
9 than 20 years, or both.

10 “(b) PROHIBITION ON SALE OR TRANSFER OF CON-
11 FIDENTIAL PHONE RECORDS INFORMATION.—Except as
12 otherwise provided by applicable law, any person, includ-
13 ing any employee of a covered entity or any data broker,
14 who knowingly and intentionally sells, transfers, or at-
15 tempts to sell or transfer, confidential phone records infor-
16 mation of a covered entity, without authorization from the
17 customer to whom such confidential phone records infor-
18 mation relates, shall be fined under this title, imprisoned
19 for not more than 5 years, or both.

20 “(c) PROHIBITION ON PURCHASE OF PHONE
21 RECORDS INFORMATION.—Except as otherwise provided
22 by applicable law, any person who purchases confidential
23 phone records information of a covered entity, knowing
24 such information was obtained fraudulently or without
25 prior authorization from the customer to whom such con-

1 fidential records information relates, shall be fined under
2 this title, imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

3 “(d) ENHANCED PENALTIES FOR AGGRAVATED
4 CASES.—Whoever violates, or attempts to violate, sub-
5 section (a) while violating another law of the United
6 States or as part of a pattern of any illegal activity involv-
7 ing more than \$100,000, or more than 50 customers of
8 a covered entity, in a 12-month period shall, in addition
9 to the penalties provided for in subsection (a), be fined
10 twice the amount provided in subsection (b)(3) or (c)(3)
11 (as the case may be) of section 3571 of this title, impris-
12 oned for not more than 5 years, or both.

13 “(e) ENHANCED PENALTIES FOR USE OF INFORMA-
14 TION IN FURTHERANCE OF CERTAIN CRIMINAL OF-
15 FENSES.—

16 “(1) Whoever, violates, or attempts to violate,
17 subsection (a), (b), or (c) knowing that such infor-
18 mation may be used in furtherance of, or with the
19 intent to commit, an offense described in section
20 2261, 2261A, 2262, or any other crime of violence
21 shall, in addition to the penalties provided for in
22 subsection (a), (b), or (c), be fined under this title
23 and imprisoned not more than 5 years.

24 “(2) Whoever, violates, or attempts to violate,
25 subsection (a), (b), or (c) knowing that such infor-

1 mation may be used in furtherance of, or with the
2 intent to commit, an offense under section 111, 115,
3 1114, 1503, 1512, 1513, or to intimidate, threaten,
4 harass, injure, or kill any Federal, State, or local
5 law enforcement officer shall, in addition to the pen-
6 alties provided for in subsection (a), (b) or (c), be
7 fined under this title and imprisoned not more than
8 5 years.

9 “(f) EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION.—There is
10 extraterritorial jurisdiction over an offense under this
11 section.

12 “(g) NONAPPLICABILITY TO LAW ENFORCEMENT
13 AGENCIES.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to pre-
14 vent, hinder, or otherwise delay the production of con-
15 fidential phone records information from a covered entity
16 upon receipt of a lawful request from a law enforcement
17 agency, or any officer, employee, or agent of such agency,
18 in accordance with other applicable laws.

19 “(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 “(1) CONFIDENTIAL PHONE RECORDS INFOR-
21 MATION.—The term ‘confidential phone records in-
22 formation’ means—

23 “(A) information that—

24 “(i) relates to the quantity, technical
25 configuration, type, destination, location,

1 or amount of use of a service offered by a
2 covered entity subscribed to by any cus-
3 tomer of that covered entity; and

4 “(ii) is made available to a covered
5 entity by a customer solely by virtue of the
6 relationship between the covered entity and
7 the customer; or

8 “(B) information contained in any bill,
9 itemization, or account statement related to a
10 product or service provided by a covered entity
11 to any customer of the covered entity.

12 “(2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ‘covered en-
13 tity’—

14 “(A) has the same meaning given the term
15 ‘telecommunications carrier’ in section 3 of the
16 Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153);
17 and

18 “(B) includes any provider of IP-enabled
19 voice service.

20 “(3) CUSTOMER.—The term ‘customer’ means,
21 with respect to a covered entity, any individual, part-
22 nership, association, joint stock company, trust, or
23 corporation, or authorized representative of such
24 customer, to whom the covered entity provides a
25 product or service.

1 “(4) IP-ENABLED VOICE SERVICE.—The term
2 ‘IP-enabled voice service’ means the provision of
3 real-time 2-way voice communications offered to the
4 public, or such class of users as to be effectively
5 available to the public, transmitted through cus-
6 tomer premises equipment using TCP/IP protocol,
7 or a successor protocol, for a fee (whether part of
8 a bundle of services or separately) with 2-way inter-
9 connection capability such that the service can origi-
10 nate traffic to, and terminate traffic from, a public
11 switched telephone network.”.

12 **SEC. 4. SENTENCING GUIDELINES.**

13 (a) REVIEW AND AMENDMENT.—Not later than 180
14 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the United
15 States Sentencing Commission, pursuant to its authority
16 under section 994 of title 28, United States Code, and
17 in accordance with this section, shall review and, if appro-
18 priate, amend the Federal sentencing guidelines and policy
19 statements applicable to persons convicted of any offense
20 under section 1039 of title 18, United States Code.

21 (b) AUTHORIZATION.—The United States Sentencing
22 Commission may amend the Federal sentencing guidelines
23 in accordance with the procedures set forth in section
24 21(a) of the Sentencing Act of 1987 (28 U.S.C. 994 note)

1 as though the authority under that section had not ex-
2 pired.

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