



**H.B. 57**

126th General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

Rep. Blessing

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**BILL SUMMARY**

- Until the Public Utilities Commission adopts rules regarding wireless listings (which it is not required to do), requires wireline telephone utilities to include wireless telephone numbers by request in the white pages and yellow pages directories they provide to their subscribers.
- Sets the charge for such a wireless white pages listing at \$75 per year, and requires the charge for a wireless yellow pages listing to be the same as for a wireline listing.

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**CONTENT AND OPERATION**

**Background and current law**

The bill generally provides for a directory listing of wireless telephone numbers by requiring wireline telephone companies that are public utilities to include those numbers, by request, in the standard white or yellow pages directories they provide to their subscribers. Currently, the only legal requirement in Ohio regarding the provision of directory listings relates to white pages listings of wireline numbers.

The current Ohio requirement for a white pages listing appears in minimum service standard rules adopted by the Public Utilities Commission (PUCO): each common carrier telecommunications provider of local exchange services to end-use consumers in Ohio must cause to be provided annually to each such subscriber--in accordance with the provider's directory distribution practices as of May 29, 2001--a free, printed directory that contains, at a minimum, all published telephone numbers of the provider's subscribers located within the subscriber's local calling area. If the local calling area of a subscriber is modified, the company must provide the subscriber a free directory of all published numbers in that modified area. Upon a subscriber's request, a directory must include any

exchanges that are within any extended local calling area resulting from PUCO approval of extended area service affecting that subscriber.

Alternatively, the local service provider can provide free directory assistance for the subscriber's local calling area, along with an annual directory that includes PUCO-prescribed informational pages. (Rule Nos. 4901:1-5-01 and 4901:1-5-06, Ohio Administrative Code.)

No private company currently provides a printed, wireless directory for Ohio subscribers. While the issue of wireless directories is being debated within the industry, there is at least one proposal under which six companies have an agreement with Qsent, Inc., to launch a directory service in 2006 for their wireless service subscribers. Although LSC could readily find only one (Cable and Wireless Grenada, for its own subscribers), there may be more websites allowing for registering a wireless number in an online directory.

### **The bill**

By operation of the bill, its wireless listing requirement expires upon the PUCO's adoption of any rules regarding such listings. Until then, a wireline utility must provide for a wireless service subscriber a white pages or yellow pages directory listing, or both, upon a written request that includes the wireless telephone number and name, and, optionally, the address to be listed, as well as a copy of the face page of a recent wireless telephone bill or other document indicating the person has been assigned the number to be listed. The directory in which the number is to be listed is the one that covers the local calling area in which the address for the wireless telephone number is located. The charge for a wireless white pages listing is specified in the bill at \$75 per year. Charges for a yellow pages listing must be the same as between a wireline and wireless listing, including charges for a yellow pages display advertisement. (If the wireline utility provides free directory assistance instead of a printed directory, the wireless listing must be included in the directory assistance.)

Application of existing law to the bill provides that a violation of the listing requirement is punishable by a PUCO-assessed forfeiture of \$1,000 per day, per violation. Additionally, a court may impose civil remedies, such as mandamus or injunction; and treble damages may be awarded pursuant to a private action at law. (R.C. 4905.54 to 4905.61.)

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## **HISTORY**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>JOURNAL ENTRY</b>
Introduced h0057-i-126.doc/kl	02-15-05	p. 206

