

compliance or reporting requirements under the rule for small entities; (3) the use of performance, rather than design, standards; and (4) an exemption from coverage of the rule, or any part thereof, for small entities.

85. The NPRM specifically seeks comment on whether the Commission should expand the scope and requirements of the rules, recognizing that such an expansion may not be appropriate with regard to all VoIP service providers. With one exception, the NPRM does not adopt any tentative conclusions regarding what specific regulations would apply to any entity, including small entities. We hereby specifically seek comment on the effect the various proposals described in the NPRM, and summarized above, will have on small entities, and on what effect alternative rules would have on those entities. How can the Commission achieve its goal of ensuring that all users of VoIP services ultimately covered by the Commission's E911 rules are able to access ubiquitous and reliable E911 service while also imposing the least necessary burdens on small entities? What specific steps could the Commission take in this regard?

6. Federal Rules That May Duplicate, Overlap, or Conflict With the Proposed Rules

86. None.

Ordering Clauses

87. *It is ordered* that pursuant to the authority contained in sections 1, 4(i), 4(j), 251(e), and 303(r) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 151, 154(i)-(j), 251(e), 303(r), the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in WC Docket No. 05-196 is adopted.

88. *It is further ordered* that the Commission's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Reference Information Center, shall send a copy of this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, including the Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration.

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene H. Dortch,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 05-12827 Filed 6-28-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 64

[CG Docket No. 02-278; DA 05-1346]

Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule; petition for declaratory ruling, comments requested.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Commission seeks comment on a petition for declaratory ruling filed by a coalition of 33 organizations, including trade associations, individual companies, and non-profit entities engaged in interstate telemarketing activities ("Joint Petitioners"), raising issues concerning the scope of the Commission's jurisdiction over interstate telemarketing calls under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act ("TCPA"). In particular, *Joint Petitioners* ask the Commission to issue a ruling declaring the Commission's exclusive regulatory jurisdiction over interstate telemarketing calls and barring state regulation of such calls.

DATES: Comments are due on or before July 29, 2005, and reply comments are due on or before August 18, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for further filing instructions.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kelli Farmer, Consumer Policy Division, Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau, (202) 418-2512 (voice), *Kelli.Farmer@fcc.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the Commission's document, DA 05-1346, released May 13, 2005. On July 3, 2003, the Commission released a *Report and Order (2003 TCPA Order)* revising its rules under the TCPA, published at 68 FR 44144, July 25, 2003. In the *2003 TCPA Order*, the Commission determined that it would consider any alleged conflicts between state and federal requirements and the need for preemption on a case-by-case basis. Accordingly, the Commission instructed any party that believes a state law is inconsistent with section 227 of the Communications Act or the Commission's rules to seek a declaratory ruling from the Commission. This petition argues that the Commission has exclusive jurisdiction over interstate telemarketing rules and need not deal

with preemption petitions on a case-by-case basis. When filing comments on the joint petition, please reference CG Docket No. 02-278, DA 05-1346. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies. See *Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, 63 FR 24121, May 1, 1998. Comments filed through the ECFS can be sent as an electronic file via the Internet to <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. In completing the transmittal screen, commenters should include their full name, U.S. Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket or rulemaking number. Parties may also submit an electronic comment by Internet e-mail. To get filing instructions for e-mail comments, commenters should send e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov, and should include the following words in the body of the message, "get form <your e-mail address>." A sample form and directions will be sent in reply.

Parties who choose to file by paper must send an original and four (4) copies of each filing. Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by electronic media, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail (although the Commission continues to experience delays in receiving U.S. Postal Service mail). The Commission's contractor, Natek, Inc., will receive hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings or electronic media for the Commission's Secretary at 236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE., Suite 110, Washington, DC 20002. The filing hours at this location are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes must be disposed of before entering the building. Commercial and electronic media sent by overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743. U.S. Postal Service first-class mail, Express Mail, and Priority Mail should be addressed to 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554. All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Marlene H. Dortch, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW., Room TW-B204, Washington, DC 20554.

This proceeding shall be treated as a "permit but disclose" proceeding in accordance with the Commission's *ex parte* rules, 47 CFR 1.1200. Persons making oral *ex parte* presentations are reminded that memoranda summarizing

the presentations must contain summaries of the substances of the presentations and not merely a listing of the subjects discussed. More than a one or two sentence description of the views and arguments presented is generally required. See 47 CFR 1.1206(b). Other rules pertaining to oral and written *ex parte* presentations in permit-but-disclose proceedings are set forth in section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR 1.1206(b).

The full text of this document and copies of any subsequently filed documents in this matter will be available for public inspection and copying during regular business hours at the FCC Reference Information Center, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY-A257, Washington, DC 20554, (202) 418-0270. This document may be purchased from the Commission's duplicating contractor, Best Copy and Printing (BCPI), Inc., Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY-B402, Washington, DC 20554. Customers may contact BCPI, Inc. at their Web site: <http://www.bcpweb.com> or by calling 1-800-378-3160. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format) send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice) or (202) 418-0432 (TTY). This document can also be downloaded in Word or Portable Document Format (PDF) at <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/policy>.

Synopsis

On April 29, 2005, a coalition of 33 organizations, including trade associations, individual companies, and non-profit entities engaged in interstate telemarketing activities ("*Joint Petitioners*"), filed with the Commission a joint petition for declaratory ruling. The joint petition raises issues concerning the scope of the Commission's jurisdiction over interstate telemarketing calls under the TCPA. In particular, *Joint Petitioners* ask the Commission to issue a ruling declaring the Commission's exclusive regulatory jurisdiction over interstate telemarketing calls and barring state regulation of such calls. The Commission seeks comment on the issues raised in the joint petition.

Joint Petitioners assert that, in the TCPA, Congress sought to "establish uniform national standards that balance the concerns of consumers with the legitimate interests of telemarketers." According to *Joint Petitioners*, states have adopted and proposed "divergent rules applicable to interstate telemarketing that undermine the

desired uniform federal regulatory regime." Citing dozens of existing and proposed state laws that differ from the Commission's TCPA rules and that do not distinguish between intrastate and interstate telemarketing calls, *Joint Petitioners* contend that these state regulations place "undue and at times impossible compliance burdens on interstate telemarketers, and lead state courts in enforcement actions to * * * impose substantial fines on telemarketers for interstate calls expressly permitted by the federal rules."

To resolve this situation, *Joint Petitioners* ask the Commission to "revisit" determinations that it made in its 2003 TCPA Order concerning "the interplay between federal and state authority" over interstate telemarketing activities and "clarify that the FCC has exclusive authority over interstate telemarketing." *Joint Petitioners* contend that the Commission's conflict preemption approach to resolving alleged conflicts between state and federal telemarketing laws is "unsound" because, in their view, states have no authority to regulate interstate telemarketing. *Joint Petitioners* state that the Commission's regulatory authority under the TCPA must be understood against the backdrop of pre-existing federal law governing the regulation of interstate communications. Specifically, they assert that Congress: (1) Provided the Commission with exclusive jurisdiction over interstate communications in section 2(a) of the Communications Act; (2) expanded the Commission's authority over intrastate telemarketing calls in the TCPA amendments to section 2(b) of the Act; and thus (3) made clear that it considered telemarketing to be "communication" covered by section 2 of the Act. *Joint Petitioners* also take issue with the Commission's statement in its 2003 TCPA Order that section 227(e)(1) of the Act is "ambiguous" as to whether states may regulate interstate telemarketing calls, asserting that that section instead reflects Congress's desire to "(a) expand federal power over intrastate calls, (b) restrict, but * * * not eliminate, state authority over such calls, and (c) * * * not grant to the states any authority over interstate calls."

Based on the view that Congress intended the Commission to have exclusive jurisdiction over interstate telemarketing calls, *Joint Petitioners* contend that the Commission cannot lawfully delegate that jurisdiction to the states. *Joint Petitioners* assert that "acknowledging the Commission's exclusive jurisdiction over interstate

telemarketing" would not deprive states of their ability to protect their residents from unwanted interstate telephone solicitations. *Joint Petitioners* note that the TCPA both allows state attorneys general to enforce federal telemarketing rules in federal court and "preserves the right of state attorneys general to proceed in state court against telemarketers 'on the basis of an alleged violation of any general civil or criminal statute of such State.'" Thus, *Joint Petitioners* contend, the TCPA does not interfere with state police powers or long-arm statutes, which are used to protect consumers generally against fraud.

If the Commission determines that the Communications Act, as amended by the TCPA, does not already bar states from regulating interstate telemarketing, *Joint Petitioners* argue, in the alternative, that the Commission should exercise its own authority to "categorically preempt" state regulation of interstate telemarketing calls. *Joint Petitioners* urge the Commission to categorically preempt all state regulation of interstate telemarketing on the basis that such regulation is "inconsistent with the sound, pro-competitive policy of prohibiting multiple, inconsistent regulation."

Federal Communications Commission.
Monica Desai,
Acting Chief, Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau.
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 64

[CG Docket No. 02-278; DA 05-1347]

Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule; petition for declaratory ruling, comments requested.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Commission reopens the public comment period for six declaratory ruling petitions that seek Commission preemption under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act ("TCPA") of the application of particular state laws to interstate telemarketing calls.

DATES: Comments are due on or before July 29, 2005, and reply comments are due on or before August 18, 2005.