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For Immediate Release

**FCC PROPOSES ACTION, SEEKS INPUT TO ADDRESS ROBOCALLS
TO REASSIGNED PHONE NUMBERS**

The Commission Takes Aim at Reducing Calls that Plague Consumers & Callers

WASHINGTON, March 22, 2018—The Federal Communications Commission today adopted a proposal to move forward in an effort to reduce calls placed by businesses and other legitimate callers to numbers that are no longer assigned to the consumers who consented to receive those calls. The Commission is proposing that one or more databases be made available to give businesses the information they need to avoid making such calls, and thus reduce the number of unwanted calls to reassigned numbers.

When a phone number is reassigned to a new consumer, that person may receive calls intended for a consumer who had that number previously. These calls often annoy the consumers who receive them and waste the time and effort of the callers, while subjecting them to potential liability.

The Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking adopted today proposes and seeks comment on ways to address this reassigned numbers problem. Specifically, the Further Notice:

- Proposes to ensure that one or more databases are available to provide callers with the comprehensive and timely information they need to avoid calling reassigned numbers.
- Seeks comment on the information that callers who choose to use a reassigned numbers database need to avoid calling a reassigned number.
- Seeks feedback on three alternative ideas for service providers to report that information: (1) requiring service providers to report reassigned number information to a single, FCC-designated database; (2) requiring service providers to report that information to one or more commercial data aggregators; or (3) allowing service providers to report that information to commercial data aggregators on a voluntary basis.
- Seeks comment on whether and, if so, how the Commission should adopt a safe harbor from liability under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act for those callers that choose to use a reassigned numbers database.

Today's action is the latest step taken by the FCC in its ongoing efforts to combat illegal robocalls. The Commission recently adopted [new rules](#) allowing phone companies to proactively block calls that are likely to be fraudulent, such as those purporting to be from area codes that do not exist. The FCC also [began](#) exploring ways to set up a reliable system to verify that a phone call is actually from the name or phone number appearing on the recipient's caller ID.

The FCC is also partnering with the Federal Trade Commission for two upcoming events aimed at furthering the fight against illegal robocalls and caller ID spoofing. The agencies are co-hosting a [policy forum](#) tomorrow, March 23, 2018, and a [technology expo](#) on April 23, 2018.

Action by the Commission March 22, 2018 by Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 18-31). Chairman Pai, Commissioners Clyburn, O’Rielly, and Carr approving. Commissioner Rosenworcel approving in part and dissenting in part. Chairman Pai, Commissioners Clyburn, O’Rielly, Carr and Rosenworcel issuing separate statements.

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).