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1997 ASSEMBLY BILL 372

May 22, 1997 - Introduced by Representatives Schneider, Williams, Lorge, Ziegelbauer and Gronemus. Referred to Committee on Utilities Oversight.

AN ACT *to create* 196.206 of the statutes; **relating to:** requiring local exchange telecommunication utilities to provide international call blocking service and providing a penalty.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, if technically feasible, a local exchange telecommunications utility must provide a customer with the option of blocking access to pay-per-call services that use "900" exchanges. This bill requires a local exchange telecommunications utility to provide, if technically feasible, the additional option of international call blocking to block direct-dialed international calls originating from the customer's telephone. The bill also provides that a local exchange telecommunications utility may not charge a customer for the cost of international call blocking the first time a customer requests the blocking and that it may not remove international call blocking unless the customer requests the removal in writing and the utility confirms the request.

For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. 196.206 of the statutes is created to read:

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196.206 International call blocking. (1) In this section, "international call
blocking" means a service that blocks direct-dialed calls to a foreign country that
originate from the customer's telephone service.

- (2) If technically feasible, a local exchange telecommunications utility shall provide a customer the option of international call blocking.
- (3) A local exchange telecommunications utility may not charge a customer for the cost of international call blocking the first time a customer requests international call blocking.
- (4) A local exchange telecommunications utility may not remove international call blocking from a customer's telephone service unless the customer makes the request for removal in writing and the utility confirms the request.
- (5) Any person who violates this section shall be required to forfeit not less than \$25 nor more than \$5,000 for each offense. The department of justice or, upon informing the department of justice, the district attorney of the county where the violation occurs shall enforce forfeitures under this subsection by action on behalf of the state.

17 (END)