NEWS FROM THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

FCC Cracks Down on Bad Actors' Access to U.S. Phone Numbers

More Stringent Vetting for Direct Access to Numbers by VoIP Providers Includes National Security Checks

WASHINGTON, November 19, 2026—Today, the Federal Communications Commission adopted new rules to prevent bad actors from obtaining access to telephone numbers, which are necessary for them to launch illegal robocalling campaigns. These rules will require new national security-focused certifications and improved authorization processes before VoIP providers can get direct access to phone numbers. Today's action strengthens this "first line of defense" against illegal robocallers by enhancing the vetting process for interconnected VoIP providers seeking access to telephone numbers directly from the North American Numbering Plan Administrator.

The Order voted on today modifies the Commission's VoIP numbering authorization rules to require new national security-focused certifications. These changes will protect numbering resources from entities, equipment, and services identified on the Commission's Covered List. Both new applicants and existing authorization holders will be required to certify that they are not entities identified on the Covered List, and that their interconnected VoIP networks do not use any "covered" communications equipment or services. Providers that cannot certify to meeting these conditions must instead provide a detailed explanation of their relationship to the relevant Covered List entity and/or use of "covered" equipment or services. The rules also increase transparency and further streamline the review and management of the VoIP direct access authorization process by the FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau.

The Commission has adopted a series of policy changes to modernize and safeguard the VoIP numbering authorization process from abuse by bad actors. Last year, the FCC voted to apply its robocall, public safety, and national security compliance certification and disclosure requirements to all interconnected VoIP providers that directly access U.S. numbering resources. Relatedly, in March, the Commission proposed expanded VoIP direct access certification and disclosure requirements for all providers that receive telephone numbering resources – directly or indirectly – and to increase visibility into what entities are doing with these finite resources to stop scammers from exploiting gaps in the system.

The Commission also voted today on a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to seek comment on additional proposals, including measures to protect U.S. telecommunications networks against foreign adversaries and other cybersecurity and physical security risks.

Action by the Commission November 19, 2026 by Fourth Report and Order and Fourth Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 26-82). Chairman Carr, Commissioners Gomez and Trusty approving. Chairman Carr and Commissioner Trusty issuing separate statements.

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