

GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Commissioners:
 Bobby Baker, Chairman
 Dave Baker
 Bob Durden
 Lauren "Bubba" McDonald, Jr.
 Stan Wise

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FRIDAY THE 13th; A LUCKY DAY FOR**CONSUMERS FRUSTRATED WITH TELEMARKETERS**

ATLANTA – The Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) today announced a program expected to bring relief to Georgians frustrated with telemarketing calls. For a \$5.00 charge every two years, consumers who want to limit telemarketing calls can place their telephone number on the Georgia No Call List which telemarketers are banned from calling.

The legislation, passed during the 1998 session of the General Assembly, goes into effect January 1, 1999. Telemarketers that call someone on the list can be subjected to a \$2,000 fine per call.

During the month of October applications for the "Georgia No Call List" were mailed with phone bills to every telephone customer in the state. "We haven't even advertised the service yet and we already have over 60,000 phone numbers registered by mail," said Public Service Commissioner Bubba McDonald.

Starting today, consumers can register by phone by calling 1-877-GANOCALL. The Internet site, www.ganocall.com, can also be used to register and for telemarketers to subscribe to the list.

The law applies to telephone solicitors encouraging the purchase or rental of, or investment in, property, goods, or services. "There are limited exceptions. But unlike other states, Georgia does not have a laundry list of exceptions that water down the law," said McDonald. Registration on the no call list does not limit calls from businesses that have a previous or current relationship with the customer, recognized charitable or religious organizations or political pollsters or candidates for public office.

"This law should help protect the elderly who unfortunately are so often preyed upon by telemarketers

with bad intentions," said Commissioner McDonald.

Barry Reid, Director of the Georgia Office of Consumer Affairs, charged with enforcing the law, said the office will vigorously enforce the law even when calls are made to Georgians from out of state.

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