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For Immediate Release:
Feb. 9, 2006

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Senator Matt Bartle Files Measure Banning Sale and Purchase of Cell-Phone Call Logs

JEFFERSON CITY – State Sen. Matt Bartle, R-Lee’s Summit, today introduced legislation criminalizing the sale and purchase of cell-phone call logs. Many businesses buy and sell records of telephone calls without the permission of telephone customers.

“Telephone call logs contain personal information,” Bartle said. “The distribution of this information can result in identity theft and unsolicited phone calls. These confidential, personal records should not be available to the highest bidder.”

Bartle filed legislation this week imposing penalties on businesses that buy or sell call logs. The legislation focuses on the transfer of certain personal identification as identity theft. Penalties outlined in the legislation vary according to the detrimental effects that result from each instance of a call log being bought or sold.

These businesses often obtain telecommunications records by deceiving telecom providers into giving up personal information by pretending to be the customer. There are reportedly more than 40 Web-based businesses that buy and sell this information.

Aside from privacy invasion, these practices can be dangerous to telecom customers. Concern has been expressed of stalkers buying phone records of their victims and criminals buying records of police officers and undercover agents.

“The public should clearly not have access to the phone records of others,” Bartle said. “This sort of access can only result in a loss of privacy and security for individuals who simply want to use a service they believe to be safe.”

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