



# SENATOR MATT BARTLE

**District 8** – Capitol Building, Room 431 Jefferson City, MO 65101

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## **Legislation Prohibiting the Sale of Call Logs Protects Missouri Consumers from Identity Theft**

As communications expand and our world becomes smaller, there are more and more services available to us. However, these same technological advances offer increased opportunities for fraud and identity theft. One example is call logs, records of our telephone calls. Many businesses, generally Internet-based, buy and sell these personal records without the permission of telephone customers. This practice can endanger the privacy of telephone users.

This week the Senate advanced legislation I am sponsoring that criminalizes the sale and purchase of telephone call logs. These confidential, personal records should not be for sale.

Senate Bill 1030, which was combined this week with similar legislation, imposes penalties on businesses that buy or sell call logs. The legislation includes call logs as forms of identification that can be used to commit identity theft, and it outlines penalties that vary according to the detrimental effect of the transfer of information.

The means in which businesses obtain call logs is unsettling for those aware of the dangers of identity theft. These businesses often convince telecommunications providers to hand over information by pretending to be a customer. There are reportedly more than 40 Web-based businesses that buy and sell this information.

Aside from privacy invasion, these practices can cause physical endangerment to 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 not have access to the phone records of others. 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, and we are working to close this loophole as quickly as possible. I have added an “emergency clause” to the bill to ensure that if passed it will become effective as soon as it is signed by the governor, rather than waiting to go into effect until August 28 like other new laws.

If you have comments or questions about this week’s column or any other matter involving state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my office by e-mail at [matt\\_bartle@senate.mo.gov](mailto:matt_bartle@senate.mo.gov) or by phone at (888) 711-9278.

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