



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[OMB 3060-xxxx; FR ID 179269]

Information Collection Being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, and as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collections. Comments are requested concerning: whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and ways to further reduce the information collection burden on small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees.

DATES: Written PRA comments should be submitted on or before **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Direct all PRA comments to Cathy Williams, FCC, via email to PRA@fcc.gov and to Cathy.Williams@fcc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information about the information collection, contact Cathy Williams at (202) 418-2918.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FCC may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the PRA that does not display a valid OMB control number.

OMB Control Number: 3060-XXXX.

Title: Targeting and Eliminating Unlawful Text Messages.

Form Number: N/A.

Type of Review: New information collection.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit entities, and state, local, or tribal government.

Number of Respondents: 2,893 respondents; 34,716 responses.

Estimated Time per Response: 1 hour.

Frequency of Response: On occasion reporting requirement.

Obligation to Respond: Required to obtain or retain benefits. Statutory authority for this of information is contained in sections 4(i), 4(j), 227, 301, 303, 307, and 316 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 154(i), 154(j), 227, 301, 303, 307, and 316.

Total Annual Burden: 34,716 hours.

Total Annual Cost: No cost.

Needs and Uses: This notice and request for comments seeks to establish a new information collection as it pertains to the *Targeting and Eliminating Unlawful Text Messages, Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991, CG Docket No. 21-402, CG Docket No. 02-278, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 23-21, (rel. Mar.17, 2023)(Text Blocking Report and Order)*. Text message-based scams can include links to well-designed phishing websites that appear identical to the website of a legitimate company and can fool a victim into providing personal or financial information. Texted links can also load unwanted software onto a device, including malware that steals passwords, credentials, or other personal information. The Federal Communications Commission (Commission) is therefore, for the first time, requiring all mobile wireless providers to block certain text messages that are highly likely to be illegal, so

that all subscribers have a basic level of protection. In the *Text Blocking Report and Order*, adopted on March 16, 2023 and released on March 17, 2023, the Commission is requiring mobile wireless providers to block certain text messages that are highly likely to be illegal. The Commission is requiring mobile wireless providers to block—at the network level—texts purporting to be from North American Numbering Plan (NANP) numbers on a reasonable Do-Not-Originate (DNO) list, which include numbers that purport to be from invalid, unallocated, or unused numbers, and NANP numbers for which the subscriber to the number has requested that texts purporting to originate from that number be blocked.

Text Blocking Report and Order, FCC 23-21, para. 16.

We adopt our proposal to require mobile wireless providers to block text messages at the network level (i.e., without requiring consumer opt in or opt out). The rule we adopt requires that they block texts purporting to be from numbers on a reasonable DNO list. As the Commission determined with calls, we find that no reasonable consumer would wish to receive text messages that spoof a number that is not in operation or, worse, purports to be from a well-known, trusted organization that does not send text messages and thus is highly likely to be a scam. Our requirement to block texts that purport to be from numbers on a reasonable DNO list does not include text messages from short codes.

The new information collection for which OMB approval is sought comes from the affirmative obligation adopted in the *Text Blocking Report and Order* that all mobile wireless providers must block calls using a reasonable DNO list. Currently, the Commission requires gateway providers to block voice calls purporting to originate on a reasonable DNO list, under section 47 CFR 64.1200(o) of the Commission's rules, but this is the first time that

the Commission has required mobile wireless providers to block texts. The Commission is also ensuring that any erroneous blocking can be quickly remedied by requiring mobile wireless providers and other entities to maintain a point of contact for texters to report erroneously blocked texts.

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene Dortch,
Secretary,
Office of the Secretary.

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