

12/6

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3408

INTRODUCED BY **HON. JOSEPH A. SANTIAGO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

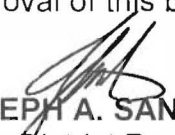
This bill mandates mobile phone service providers to give their subscribers the option to retain their numbers even if they switch to another service provider.

Consumers always have the right of choice and that includes the right to keep their numbers if they choose to. In the United States for instance, mobile telephone users are allowed by federal regulation to retain their numbers even if they transfer to another carrier. Thus subscribers do not necessarily have to buy new handsets if they decide to switch carriers for as long as their numbers are exclusively assigned to them.

Statistics have shown that as of end-June this year, some 26.6 Million Filipinos or Thirty Two Percent (32%) of the population owned a mobile telephone. The cellular penetration rate is expected to reach more than thirty-five percent (35%) by year-end.

This legislative proposal is one of the most responsive pieces of pro-consumer legislation that has to be acted upon by Congress. If passed, service providers will be under constant pressure to enhance network coverage and minimize dead spots. They will become more aggressive in satisfying subscribers more value for their money.

Approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


JOSEPH A. SANTIAGO
Lone District Representative
Catanduanes

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3408**

Introduced by the **Hon. JOSEPH A. SANTIAGO**

**AN ACT MANDATING MOBILE PHONE SERVICE PROVIDERS TO GIVE
THEIR SUBSCRIBERS THE OPTION TO RETAIN THEIR NUMBERS**

***Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines
in Congress assembled:***

Section 1. This Act shall be known as the Telephone Portability Act of 2004;

Section 2. Mobile phone subscribers shall have the option to retain their numbers even if they have already switched to another service, *provided that*; the number of the mobile phone is registered under his/her name, *provided further*; that a subscriber opting to transfer or switch to another mobile service provider has no existing liability or outstanding obligations with the Public Telephone Entity (PTE).

Section 3. Any provision of this Act which is subsequently declared to be unconstitutional shall not affect the validity of its other provisions.

Section 4. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

APPROVED.