



## Issue

Last year, callers in the United States received more than 26.3 billion robocalls, a 47 percent increase from 2017. In this new wave of robocalls, spoofer have adopted a tactic of “neighborhood spoofing,” wherein a robocaller uses a fake local number as cover for a robocall to reach unsuspecting recipients, even if the robocaller is calling from outside the United States.

The Senate passed S. 151, the Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence (TRACED) Act in May 2019. While this legislation mandated the adoption of caller identification authentication technology (specifically STIR/SHAKEN authentication), the bill did not allow for blocking of calls that fail the authentication. Furthermore, while the FCC adopted a declaratory order allowing for calls to be blocked with data analytics last month, they did not include caller identification authentication technology, instead issuing a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

## Solution

S. 2204, the Data Analytics Robocall Technology (DART) Act would establish a pilot program to expand on the FCC’s attempts to combat robocalls. Specifically, under the bill:

- The FCC would carry out a one-year pilot program, wherein voice service providers may use caller identification authentication procedures (including STIR/SHAKEN) and data analytics to identify and block suspected illegal robocalls;
- The FCC would establish a process by which callers blocked under the program may appeal to the voice service provider if they believe their calls should not have been blocked, with voice service providers required to provide a single point of contact for these issues;
- Voice service providers must maintain a list of public safety and government entities who may not be blocked under the program (the FCC calls this a “Critical Calls List” in their NRPM); and
- Consumers may opt-in to a “whitelist” program, wherein voice service providers will allow calls to the consumer from their contact list.