

An Arkansas House committee has advanced a Senate bill that would increase the penalty for robocalls and makes the act of spoofing illegal in the state. Current law charges someone behind a robocall with a class B misdemeanor. Under the proposed legislation, both robocalls and spoofing would be a Class D felony.

The House Insurance and Commerce Committee heard the bill on Wednesday. The legislation defines spoofing as “the predominant means by which a robocaller protects their identities and entices customers to answer the telephone.”

Rep. Clint Penzo, who presented the bill to the committee and one of the bill’s sponsors, recounted one of his own experiences with spoofing.

**Robocall CC1 :13 “...about it”**  
**“My face pops up on my own phone and when that happened, I pulled over in Ozark, called someone at the AG’s office, sent them a screenshot and said, ‘I just called myself six times. This is getting ridiculous and we need to do something about it.’”**

According to Penzo, robocalls are the number one complaint to the Arkansas Attorney General’s office

The bill passed by a voice vote with no audible dissent. It now heads to the House for a final vote.