



Contact:

Joe Bonilla  
joe@relentlessaware.com  
518.227.1155

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## COUNTY LEGISLATOR HIGGINS TO INTRODUCE TELEPHONE DIRECTORY WASTE REDUCTION ACT

ALBANY, N.Y. (Feb. 21, 2013) — Today, Albany County Legislator [Chris Higgins](#) (D-Center Square) introduced legislation that would require a conspicuous notice for consumers to opt out of the delivery of printed telephone directories.

Under the proposal, every printed telephone directory would be required to carry notices, including opt out phone numbers and websites for consumers to use to decline such delivery.

“This proposal will provide consumers with the ability to decline a service that, with the advent of the internet, is not necessarily needed anymore. In many instances, these books are delivered to homes where no one lives and unnecessarily become a part of the waste stream,” said Higgins.

Telecom companies, in an attempt to increase distribution locations, drop off the printed directories in locations that receive low foot traffic. The directories then lay out in the hallways of apartment buildings and multi-family dwellings, creating eye sores and fire hazards. The unwanted and over-distribution of these directories has long been a complaint of downtown Albany residents.

“This bill, while providing a common sense approach for those who do not wish to receive this information to opt out, will also help combat the stream of unnecessary refuse we send to our local landfills,” Higgins continued.

The local law will be formally introduced at the Albany County Legislature’s February meeting and referred to the law committee for consideration.

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