

"AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 3 OF ACT 429 OF 1977, AS AMENDED [Ark. Stat. Ann 71-2124], TO EXEMPT TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY EMPLOYEES FROM THE PROVISIONS OF ACT 429; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Section 3 of Act 429 of 1977, as amended, the same being Ark. Stat. Ann. 71-2124, is hereby amended by adding the following subparagraph (8) to the list of exceptions contained in subsection (a):

"(8) An officer, employee, or agent of a communications common carrier, as defined by 153(h), Title 47, United States Code, while engaged in the normal course of business of the carrier, or protecting the carrier or a user of the services of that carrier, from fraudulent, unlawful, or abusive use of services."

SECTION 2. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly that employees of telecommunications companies during the normal course of business often perform duties designed to achieve legitimate objectives but which are similar in purpose to duties performed by private investigators and employees of private security agencies. Employees of telecommunications companies were not intended to be regulated by Act 429 of 1977 and should be specifically exempted. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.