



AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO THE PRIVACY OF MARITAL COMMUNICATIONS; APPLYING THE SPOUSAL PRIVILEGE TO ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN SPOUSES; PROHIBITING GOVERNMENTAL BODIES FROM REQUESTING OR REQUIRING THE DISCLOSURE OF COMMUNICATIONS COVERED BY SPOUSAL PRIVILEGE FROM SERVICES THAT TRANSMIT ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS; PROHIBITING AN ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION SERVICE FROM BEING ADJUDGED IN CONTEMPT IF THE ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION SERVICE REFUSES TO DISCLOSE CERTAIN INFORMATION; AND AMENDING SECTION 26-1-802, MCA.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 26-1-802, MCA, is amended to read:

"**26-1-802. Spousal privilege.** (1) ~~Neither~~ A spouse may not, without the consent of the other spouse, testify during or after the marriage concerning any communication made by one to the other during their marriage.

(2) A judicial, legislative, administrative, or other governmental body may not request or require the disclosure of an electronic communication made by one spouse to the other during their marriage from a spouse or an electronic communication service used by the spouse.

(3) A spouse or an electronic communication service used by the spouse may not be adjudged in contempt by a judicial, legislative, administrative, or other body having the power to issue subpoenas for refusing to disclose or produce electronic communications made by one spouse to the other during their marriage.

(4) The privilege under subsections (1) through (3):

(a) is restricted to communications made during the existence of the marriage relationship and does not extend to communications made prior to the marriage or to communications made after the marriage

is dissolved; ~~and The privilege~~

(b) \_\_\_\_\_ does not apply to a civil action or proceeding by one spouse against the other or to a criminal action or proceeding for a crime committed by one spouse against the other or against a child of either spouse.

(5) \_\_\_\_\_ For the purposes of this section, "electronic communication" and "electronic communication service" have the meanings provided in 46-5-601. The terms do not include communications transmitted by the statewide telecommunications network provided for in 2-17-506."

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,  
SB 325, originated in the Senate.

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Secretary of the Senate

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President of the Senate

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

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Speaker of the House

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

SENATE BILL NO. 325

INTRODUCED BY C. FRIEDEL, D. ZOLNIKOV

AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO THE PRIVACY OF MARITAL COMMUNICATIONS; APPLYING THE SPOUSAL PRIVILEGE TO ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN SPOUSES; PROHIBITING GOVERNMENTAL BODIES FROM REQUESTING OR REQUIRING THE DISCLOSURE OF COMMUNICATIONS COVERED BY SPOUSAL PRIVILEGE FROM SERVICES THAT TRANSMIT ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS; PROHIBITING AN ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION SERVICE FROM BEING ADJUDGED IN CONTEMPT IF THE ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION SERVICE REFUSES TO DISCLOSE CERTAIN INFORMATION; AND AMENDING SECTION 26-1-802, MCA.