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Watchdog group: Ill. cell phone users overcharged

CHICAGO

As more people go wireless for telephone needs, the Citizens Utility Board said Illinois cell phone users are paying for calling time and services they don't use.

In a report released Monday, CUB reports a yearlong analysis of the about 4,400 bills found callers on average paid \$359.64 per year unnecessarily.

CUB's study found that Illinois callers were often poorly matched with their cell-phone plans. The organization contends that resulted in nine out of 10 callers paying for 450 minutes or more, even though most never used more than 300 minutes a month.

CUB Executive Director David Kolata said consumers that use fewer than 300 minutes of calling time a month could be better served by switching to a prepaid wireless provider. The organization also suggests cell phone customers check for billing errors.

