2373--A

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 16, 2013

Introduced by Sens. KLEIN, AVELLA, CARLUCCI, O'BRIEN, SAVINO, SQUADRON, STAVISKY, VALESKY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Insurance -- recommitted to the Committee on Insurance in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the insurance law, the penal law, and the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to insurance fraud; and to repeal subdivision 1 of section 502 of the vehicle and traffic law relating to applications for licenses

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

- 1 Section 1. Section 401 of the insurance law is amended by adding a new 2 subsection (d) to read as follows:
- 3 SUPERINTENDENT SHALL HAVE BROAD AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO THIS THECHAPTER TO INVESTIGATE FRAUDULENT ACTIVITIES WITH REGARD TO INDIVIDUALS 5 THAT OPERATE MOTOR VEHICLES WITH NO INSURANCE COVERAGE, AND MOTOR VEHI-6 CLE INSUREDS WHO MISREPRESENT THE PRINCIPAL PLACE WHERE INSURED MOTOR 7 AND OPERATED. OPERATING MOTOR VEHICLES WITHOUT GARAGED PROPER INSURANCE IN VIOLATION OF ARTICLE SIX OF THE VEHICLE AND 9 IS A SIGNIFICANT DANGER TO THE PUBLIC BECAUSE DRIVERS ARE UNABLE TO 10 COMPENSATE INDIVIDUALS FOR PERSONAL INJURIES, DEATH AND PROPERTY DAMAGE 11 INFLICT UPON OTHERS. FURTHERMORE, MOTOR VEHICLE INSUREDS WHO 12 MISREPRESENT THE PRINCIPAL PLACE WHERE SUCH VEHICLES ARE GARAGED AND 13 OPERATED IMPROPERLY SHIFT THEIR HIGH LIABILITY EXPOSURE COSTS TO OTHER MOTOR VEHICLE INSUREDS THAT DO NOT FACE SUCH HIGH LIABILITY 14 15 INSURANCE PREMIUM COSTS.
- 16 S 2. Subsection (a) of section 405 of the insurance law, as amended by 17 section 7 of part A of chapter 62 of the laws of 2011, is amended to 18 read as follows:

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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(a) Any person licensed or registered pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, and any person engaged in the business of insurance or life settlement in this state who is exempted from compliance with the licensing requirements of this chapter, including the state insurance fund of this state, who has reason to believe that an insurance transaction or life settlement act may be fraudulent, or has knowledge that a 7 fraudulent insurance transaction or fraudulent life settlement act is about to take place, or has taken place shall, within thirty days after determination by such person that the transaction appears to be fraudu-9 10 lent, send to the superintendent on a form prescribed by the superinten-11 dent, the information requested by the form and such additional informa-12 tion relative to the factual circumstances of the transaction and the 13 parties involved as the superintendent may require. The superintendent 14 shall accept reports of suspected fraudulent insurance transactions or 15 fraudulent life settlement acts from any self insurer, including but not limited to self insurers providing health insurance coverage or those 16 in section fifty of the workers' compensation law, and shall 17 defined 18 treat such reports as any other received pursuant to this section. 19 SUPERINTENDENT SHALL ACCEPT REPORTS OF SUSPECTED FRAUDULENT INSURANCE 20 TRANSACTIONS FROM ANY SELF INSURER INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, 21 INSURERS PROVIDING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE, THOSE PROVIDING MOTOR 22 VEHICLE LIABILITY INSURANCE OR THOSE DEFINED IN SECTION FIFTY WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW, AND SHALL TREAT SUCH REPORTS AS ANY OTHER 23 24 RECEIVED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. 25

- S 3. Section 2133 of the insurance law, as amended by chapter 77 of the laws of 1994, is amended to read as follows:
- 2133. [Forged] FALSE INSURANCE DOCUMENTS AND FORGED insurance identification cards. Any insurance company, insurance agent, broker or other person who or which, personally or by the action of an employee or agent, KNOWINGLY possesses, transfers or uses: (A) ANY DOCU-MENT WHICH PURPORTS TO EVINCE INSURANCE COVERAGE WHEN SUCH COVERAGE EFFECT OR IS IN EFFECT AT LIMITS LESS THAN THOSE STATED IN THE TOM DOCUMENT; OR (B) a forged insurance identification card for a motor vehicle, having knowledge, personally or through such employee or agent, the fact that such insurance identification card, when issued, did not actually represent an owner's policy of liability insurance or financial security bond issued by an insurance company licensed to do business in this state covering the motor vehicle identified on such card, shall be liable for payment to the people of this state of a civil penalty in a sum not exceeding one thousand dollars for the first such violation and a sum not exceeding five thousand dollars for each subsequent violation. For the purposes of this section the term "forged insurance identification card means a written insurance identification card which has been falsely made, completed or altered, and the term "falsely made, completed or altered" shall have the same meaning as forth in section 170.00 of the penal law.
- S 4. Subdivision 5 of section 170.10 of the penal law is amended and a new subdivision 6 is added to read as follows:
- 5. A prescription of a duly licensed physician or other person authorized to issue the same for any drug or any instrument or device used in the taking or administering of drugs for which a prescription is required by law[.]; OR
- 6. A CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE OR AN INSURANCE IDENTIFICATION CARD, AS DEFINED IN SECTION THREE HUNDRED ELEVEN OF THE VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC LAW.
- S 5. Section 170.15 of the penal law is amended to read as follows: S 170.15 Forgery in the first degree.

 A person is guilty of forgery in the first degree when, with intent to defraud, deceive or injure another, he OR SHE falsely makes, completes or alters [a]:

- 1. TEN OR MORE WRITTEN INSTRUMENTS; OR
- 2. A written instrument which is or purports to be, or which is calculated to become or to represent if completed:
- [1.] (A) Part of an issue of money, stamps, securities or other valuable instruments issued by a government or governmental instrumentality; or
- [2.] (B) Part of an issue of stock, bonds or other instruments representing interests in or claims against a corporate or other organization or its property.

Forgery in the first degree is a class C felony.

- S 6. The penal law is amended by adding a new section 175.50 to read as follows:
- S 175.50 OFFERING A FALSE APPLICATION FOR MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE OR REGISTRATION.
- A PERSON IS GUILTY OF OFFERING A FALSE APPLICATION FOR MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE OR REGISTRATION WHEN KNOWING THAT ANY DOCUMENT HE OR SHE FILES WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES OR AN INSURER PROVIDING LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE CONTAINS A FALSE STATEMENT OR FALSE INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO WHERE HE OR SHE RESIDES OR WHERE HIS OR HER MOTOR VEHICLE IS GARAGED AND OPERATED.

OFFERING A FALSE APPLICATION FOR MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE OR REGISTRATION IS A CLASS E FELONY.

- S 7. Subdivision 1 of section 176.05 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 211 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:
- 1. any written statement as part of, or in support of, an application for the issuance of, or the rating of a commercial insurance policy, or certificate or evidence of self insurance for commercial OR PERSONAL insurance or commercial OR PERSONAL self insurance, or a claim for payment or other benefit pursuant to an insurance policy or self insurance program for commercial or personal insurance that he or she knows to:
- (a) contain materially false information concerning any fact material thereto; or
- (b) conceal, for the purpose of misleading, information concerning any fact material thereto; or
- S 8. Section 176.15 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 515 of the laws of 1986, is amended to read as follows:
- S 176.15 Insurance fraud in the fourth degree.
- A person is guilty of insurance fraud in the fourth degree when he [commits] OR SHE:
- 1. COMMITS a fraudulent insurance act and thereby wrongfully takes, obtains or withholds, or attempts to wrongfully take, obtain or withhold property with a value in excess of one thousand dollars; OR
- 2. OPERATES A MOTOR VEHICLE ON A PUBLIC HIGHWAY, WHEN SUCH MOTOR VEHICLE IS INSURED BY A POLICY ISSUED UNDER THE LAWS OF ANOTHER STATE, WHEN SUCH PERSON MAINTAINS HIS OR HER PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE IN THIS STATE OR SUCH MOTOR VEHICLE IS PRINCIPALLY GARAGED IN THIS STATE, AND SUCH INSURANCE POLICY WAS ISSUED UPON ANY WRITTEN OR ORAL STATEMENT BY SUCH PERSON THAT HE OR SHE PRINCIPALLY RESIDES IN SUCH OTHER STATE OR THAT SUCH MOTOR VEHICLE IS PRINCIPALLY GARAGED IN SUCH OTHER STATE.
  - Insurance fraud in the fourth degree is a class E felony.
- S 9. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new section 56 201-a to read as follows:

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S 201-A. ACCESS TO INFORMATION. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ALLOW LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL ACCESS TO ANY INDIVIDUAL'S STREET ADDRESS PROVIDED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH B OF SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION FOUR HUNDRED ONE AND SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION FIVE HUNDRED TWO OF THIS CHAPTER.

- S 10. Paragraph b of subdivision 1 of section 401 of the vehicle and traffic law, as amended by chapter 222 of the laws of 1996, is amended to read as follows:
- 7 8 Every owner of a motor vehicle which shall be operated or driven 9 upon the public highways of this state shall, except as otherwise 10 expressly provided, cause to be presented, by mail or otherwise, to the office or a branch office of the commissioner, or to any agent of the 11 commissioner, constituted as provided in this chapter, an application 12 for registration addressed to the commissioner, and on a blank to be 13 14 prepared under the direction of and furnished by the commissioner for 15 that purpose, containing: (a) a brief description of the motor vehicle to be registered, including the name and factory number of such vehicle, 16 such other facts as the commissioner shall require; (b) the weight 17 18 of the vehicle upon which the registration fee is based if the 19 based on weight; (c) the name and residence, including county of the owner of such motor vehicle, PROVIDED THAT IF THE APPLICANT USES A POST 20 21 OFFICE BOX WHEN PROVIDING A RESIDENCE ADDRESS, SUCH APPLICANT SHALL ALSO PROVIDE THE STREET ADDRESS AT WHICH HE OR SHE RESIDES; (d) provided 22 23 that, if such motor vehicle is used or to be used as an omnibus, the 24 applicant also shall so certify, and in the case of an omnibus also 25 certify as to the seating capacity, and if the omnibus is to be operated 26 wholly within a municipality pursuant to a franchise other than a fran-27 chise express or implied in articles of incorporation upon certain streets designated in such franchise, those facts shall also be certi-28 29 fied, and a certified copy of such franchise furnished to the commis-30 sioner; (e) provided, that, if such motor vehicle is an altered livery, the applicant shall so furnish a certified copy of the length of the 31 32 center panel of such vehicle, provided, however, that the commissioner 33 shall require such proof, as he OR SHE may determine is necessary, in the application for registration and provided further, if the center 34 35 panel of such vehicle exceeds one hundred inches, the commissioner shall require proof that such vehicle is in compliance with all applicable 36 37 federal and state motor vehicle safety standards; and (f) such addi-38 tional facts or evidence as the commissioner may require in connection with the application for registration. Every owner of a trailer 39 40 also make application for the registration thereof in the manner herein provided for an application to register a motor vehicle, but 41 contain a statement showing the manufacturer's number or other identifi-42 43 cation satisfactory to the commissioner and no number plate for a trailissued under the provisions of subdivision three of section four 44 45 hundred two of this [chapter] ARTICLE shall be transferred to or used upon any other trailer than the one for which number plate is issued. 46 47 The commissioner shall require proof, in the application for registra-48 tion, or otherwise, as such commissioner may determine, that the motor 49 vehicle for which registration is applied for is equipped with lights 50 conforming in all respects to the requirements of this chapter, and no 51 motor vehicle shall be registered unless it shall appear by such proofs that such motor vehicle is equipped with proper lights as aforesaid. The 52 said application shall contain or be accompanied by such evidence of the 53 54 ownership of the motor vehicle described in the application as may be 55 required by the commissioner or his OR HER agent and which, with respect to new vehicles, shall include, unless otherwise specifically provided 56

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by the commissioner, the manufacturer's statement of origin. Applications received by an agent of the commissioner shall be forwarded to the commissioner as he OR SHE shall direct for filing. No application for registration shall be accepted unless the applicant is at least sixteen years of age AND HAS SIGNED SUCH APPLICATION ATTESTING TO THE TRUTH AND VERACITY OF THE FACTS STATED THEREIN.

- S 11. Subdivision 1 of section 502 of the vehicle and traffic law, as amended by section 1 of part D of chapter 58 of the laws of 2012, is amended to read as follows:
- 10 Application for license. Application for a driver's license shall be made to the commissioner. The fee prescribed by law may be submitted 11 12 with such application. The applicant shall furnish such proof of identity, age, ADDRESS OF HIS OR HER RESIDENCE and fitness as may be required 13 14 the commissioner. WHEN PROVIDING HIS OR HER ADDRESS OF RESIDENCE, 15 THE APPLICANT SHALL PROVIDE THE STREET ADDRESS AT WHICH HE 16 RESIDES. EACH APPLICANT SHALL SIGN HIS OR HER APPLICATION ATTESTING TO 17 THE TRUTH AND VERACITY OF THE FACTS STATED THEREIN. The commissioner may 18 also provide that the application procedure shall include the taking of 19 photo image or images of the applicant in accordance with rules and 20 regulations prescribed by the commissioner. In addition, the commission-21 er also shall require that the applicant provide his or her social secu-22 rity number and provide space on the application so that the applicant 23 may register in the New York state organ and tissue donor registry under 24 section forty-three hundred ten of the public health law. In addition, 25 an applicant for a commercial driver's license who will operate a 26 commercial motor vehicle in interstate commerce shall certify that such 27 applicant meets the requirements to operate a commercial motor vehicle, set forth in public law 99-570, title XII, and title 49 of the code 28 of federal regulations, and all regulations promulgated by the United 29 States secretary of transportation under the hazardous materials trans-30 portation act. In addition, an applicant for a commercial driver's 31 32 license shall submit a medical certificate at such intervals as required 33 the federal motor carrier safety improvement act of 1999 and Part 383.71(h) of title 49 of the code of federal regulations relating to 34 35 medical certification and in a manner prescribed by the commissioner. For purposes of this section and sections five hundred three, 36 37 hundred ten-a, and five hundred ten-aa of this title, the terms "medical certificate" and "medical certification" shall mean a form substantially 38 compliance with the form set forth in Part 391.43(h) of title 49 of 39 40 the code of federal regulations. Upon a determination that the holder of a commercial driver's license has made any false statement, with respect 41 42 to the application for such license, the commissioner shall revoke such 43 license.
  - S 12. Subdivision 1 of section 502 of the vehicle and traffic law, as separately amended by chapters 465 and 487 of the laws of 2012, is REPEALED and a new subdivision 1 is added to read as follows:
  - APPLICATION FOR LICENSE. APPLICATION FOR A DRIVER'S LICENSE SHALL BE MADE TO THE COMMISSIONER. THE FEE PRESCRIBED BY LAW MAY BE WITH SUCH APPLICATION. THE APPLICANT SHALL FURNISH SUCH PROOF OF IDENTI-AGE, ADDRESS OF HIS OR HER RESIDENCE AND FITNESS AS MAY BE REQUIRED BY THE COMMISSIONER. WHEN PROVIDING HIS OR HER ADDRESS OF RESIDENCE, APPLICANT SHALL PROVIDE THESTREET ADDRESS AT WHICH HE OR SHE RESIDES. EACH APPLICANT SHALL SIGN HIS OR HER APPLICATION ATTESTING THE TRUTH AND VERACITY OF THE FACTS STATED THEREIN. THE COMMISSIONER MAY PROVIDE THAT THE APPLICATION PROCEDURE SHALL INCLUDE THE TAKING OF A PHOTO IMAGE OR IMAGES OF THE APPLICANT IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULES AND

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REGULATIONS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMMISSIONER. IN ADDITION, THE COMMISSIONER ALSO SHALL REQUIRE THAT THE APPLICANT PROVIDE HIS OR HER SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER AND SHALL PROVIDE SPACE ON THE APPLICATION SO THAT THE APPLICANT MAY REGISTER IN THE NEW YORK STATE ORGAN AND TISSUE DONOR REGISTRY UNDER SECTION FORTY-THREE HUNDRED TEN OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH LAW WITH THE FOLLOWING STATED ON THE APPLICATION IN CLEAR AND CONSPICUOUS TYPE:

"YOU MUST FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING SECTION: WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ADDED TO THE DONATE LIFE REGISTRY? CHECK BOX FOR 'YES' OR 'SKIP THIS QUESTION'."

10 11 THE COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  ${\tt HEALTH}$ SHALL NOT 12 OF ANY PERSON WHO CHECKS "SKIP THIS OUESTION". FAILURE TO CHECK A BOX SHALL NOT IMPAIR THE VALIDITY OF AN APPLICATION, AND FAILURE 13 TO 14 "YES" OR CHECKING "SKIP THIS QUESTION" SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED TO IMPLY A WISH NOT TO DONATE. IN THE CASE OF AN APPLICANT UNDER 16 AGE, CHECKING "YES" SHALL NOT CONSTITUTE CONSENT TO MAKE AN 17 ANATOMICAL GIFT OR REGISTRATION IN THE DONATE LIFE REGISTRY. AN 18 APPLICANT HAS PREVIOUSLY CONSENTED TO MAKE AN ANATOMICAL GIFT OR REGIS-19 TERED IN THE DONATE LIFE REGISTRY, CHECKING "SKIP THIS OUESTION" FAILING TO CHECK A BOX SHALL NOT IMPAIR THAT CONSENT OR REGISTRATION. 20 21 THE COMMISSIONER SHALL PROVIDE SPACE ON THE APPLICATION SO APPLICANT MAY REQUEST NOTATION UPON SUCH LICENSE THAT HE OR SHE IS A 23 VETERAN OF THE UNITED STATED ARMED FORCES. IN ADDITION, AN APPLICANT 24 A COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE WHO WILL OPERATE A COMMERCIAL MOTOR 25 VEHICLE IN INTERSTATE COMMERCE SHALL CERTIFY THAT SUCH APPLICANT 26 REQUIREMENTS TO OPERATE A COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE, AS SET FORTH IN 27 PUBLIC LAW 99-570, TITLE XII, AND TITLE 49 OF THE CODE OF FEDERAL 28 AND ALL REGULATIONS PROMULGATED BY THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY 29 OF TRANSPORTATION UNDER THE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION ACT. ADDITION, AN APPLICANT FOR A COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE SHALL SUBMIT A 30 MEDICAL CERTIFICATE AT SUCH INTERVALS AS REQUIRED BY THE FEDERAL MOTOR 31 32 CARRIER SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999 AND PART 383.71(H) OF TITLE 49 OF 33 THE CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS RELATING TO MEDICAL CERTIFICATION AND IN 34 MANNER PRESCRIBED BY THE COMMISSIONER. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION AND SECTIONS FIVE HUNDRED THREE, FIVE HUNDRED TEN-A, 35 AND FIVE HUNDRED "MEDICAL CERTIFICATE" AND "MEDICAL 36 TEN-AA OF THIS TITLE, THE TERMS 37 CERTIFICATION" SHALL MEAN A FORM SUBSTANTIALLY IN COMPLIANCE 38 SET FORTH IN PART 391.43(H) OF TITLE 49 OF THE CODE OF FEDERAL 39 REGULATIONS. UPON A DETERMINATION THAT THE HOLDER OF A COMMERCIAL 40 LICENSE HAS MADE ANY FALSE STATEMENT, WITH RESPECT TO THE APPLICA-TION FOR SUCH LICENSE, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL REVOKE SUCH LICENSE. 41

S 13. Subdivision 1 of section 502 of the vehicle and traffic law, as added by section 12 of this act, is amended to read as follows:

1. Application for license. Application for a driver's license shall be made to the commissioner. The fee prescribed by law may be submitted with such application. The applicant shall furnish such proof of identity, age, address of his or her residence and fitness as may be required by the commissioner. When providing his or her address of residence, the applicant shall provide the street address at which he or she resides. Each applicant shall sign his or her application attesting to the truth and veracity of the facts stated therein. The commissioner may also provide that the application procedure shall include the taking of a photo image or images of the applicant in accordance with rules and regulations prescribed by the commissioner. In addition, the commissioner also shall require that the applicant provide his or her social security number and [shall] provide space on the application so that the

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39 40 applicant may register in the New York state organ and tissue donor registry under section forty-three hundred ten of the public health law [with the following stated on the application in clear and conspicuous type:

"You must fill out the following section: Would you like to be added to the Donate Life Registry? Check box for 'yes' or 'skip this question'."

The commissioner of the department of health shall not maintain 8 9 records of any person who checks "skip this question". Failure to check 10 a box shall not impair the validity of an application, and failure to check "yes" or checking "skip this question" shall not be construed to 11 imply a wish not to donate. In the case of an applicant under eighteen years of age, checking "yes" shall not constitute consent to make an 12 13 14 anatomical gift or registration in the donate life registry. Where an 15 applicant has previously consented to make an anatomical gift or 16 tered in the donate life registry, checking "skip this question" or 17 failing to check a box shall not impair that consent or registration. commissioner shall provide]; AND space on the application so that 18 19 the applicant may request notation upon such license that he or she is a 20 veteran of the United Stated armed forces. In addition, an applicant 21 a commercial driver's license who will operate a commercial motor 22 vehicle in interstate commerce shall certify that such applicant meets 23 the requirements to operate a commercial motor vehicle, as set forth in public law 99-570, title XII, and title 49 of the code of federal regu-24 25 and all regulations promulgated by the United States secretary lations, 26 of transportation under the hazardous materials transportation act. addition, an applicant for a commercial driver's license shall submit a medical certificate at such intervals as required by the federal motor 27 28 29 carrier safety improvement act of 1999 and Part 383.71(h) of title 49 of the code of federal regulations relating to medical certification and in 30 a manner prescribed by the commissioner. For purposes of this section 31 32 and sections five hundred three, five hundred ten-a, and five hundred 33 "medical certificate" and "medical ten-aa of this title, the terms certification" shall mean a form substantially in compliance with the 34 35 form set forth in Part 391.43(h) of title 49 of the code of federal regulations. Upon a determination that the holder of a commercial driv-36 37 er's license has made any false statement, with respect to the applica-38

- tion for such license, the commissioner shall revoke such license. S 14. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law, provided however, that:
- 41 (a) section thirteen of this act shall take effect October 3, 2016; 42 and
- 43 (b) sections four, five, six, seven and eight of this act shall take 44 effect on the first of November next succeeding the date on which it 45 shall have become a law.